

THE TIMES

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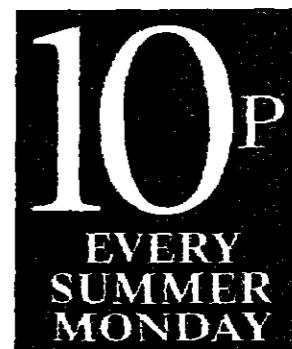
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RAYMONDS PRESS AGENCY

Labour urged to tackle 'last taboo'

Trim powers of the Queen, Blair is told

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen would be stripped of all political powers and her role as head of the Commonwealth to become a ceremonial figurehead under radical proposals to be delivered to Tony Blair today.

In the most far-reaching study on the future of the Royal Family for nearly half a century, a Fabian Society document proposes the abolition of the Civil List, transfer of the powers encompassed by the Royal Prerogative to the Speaker, and new national anthems for England and the United Kingdom.

It calls on Mr Blair to tackle Labour's "last taboo" and face up to the need to reform the monarchy.

One of the most controversial proposals is that the Queen should be replaced as head of the Commonwealth by a rotating presidency, similar to that used within the European Union. The document also advocates a referendum on the future of the monarchy every 10 years at the same time as the census.

The conclusions of the 7,500-word document, *Long to Reign Over Us?*, will be used by Conservatives as evidence that Labour thinkers want to dismantle the Royal Family's historic position within the state, even though the Fabian Society is an independent body and its proposals are not Labour policy. The society, one of the oldest left-of-centre organisations in the world, is affiliated to the party, has 90 Opposition frontbenchers among its members, and has Tony Blair as a patron.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said last night that the document — written by a prospective Labour candidate closely linked to recent party reforms — confirmed new Labour's desire to tamper with the monarchy.

The historian Lord Blake was appalled, describing the suggestions as immature, naive and pointless. "The Queen as monarch has not put a constitutional foot wrong."

Copies of the document will

be sent to Tony Blair's office today. One chapter, *Labour's Last Taboo*, says: "Ducking this issue is something that the Labour Party has managed particularly well. No serious attempt has been made by any Labour Government to reform the monarchy, nor has any serious suggestion been made of reform while in opposition."

New Labour advocated reform of Parliament, establishing Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, and a Bill of Rights. "Yet it has so far remained silent on the future of the institution at the heart of

the state. Powers to declare war and ratify treaties would be switched to Parliament.

Another controversial suggestion is to replace the National Anthem with a hymn such as *I vow to thee my country or Jerusalem*. The pamphlet urges the composition of a national anthem to celebrate the UK with words by the Poet Laureate and music by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to mark the millennium. "Our national anthem is not an exaltation of nationhood or an expression of pride in our country. It does not mention Britain or even England."

Funding would be raised through a royal levy of less than £5 per person per year. The Royal Household would be turned into a Department of the Crown answerable to Parliament and the entire expenditure of the monarchy would be brought under annual parliamentary scrutiny. Revenues from the Duchy of Cornwall, which go to the Prince of Wales, would revert to the State.

The pamphlet also urges a re-examination of the establishment of the Church of England and the monarch's role as Supreme Governor in a multi-faith society. It urges the abolition of the 1701 Act of Settlement, so that a monarch could marry a Roman Catholic and of the law which prevents clergy standing for Parliament.

Above politics, page 2

200 soldiers die in Grozny

President Yeltsin has ordered an urgent investigation into the "gross miscalculations" which resulted in the deaths of up to 200 Russian soldiers during the worst fighting in the Chechenian capital of Grozny for more than a year. Page 7

AS GUNS are loaded and Barbers donned this morning for what is likely to prove a modest grouse season, the RSPB is facing an agonising dilemma over whether to support the slaughter of hawks and harriers to protect the game birds they prey on.

The society's policy on shooting is strictly neutral, but it has always held that if sporting guns were stilled and nature allowed to take its course, a balance would be struck between gamebirds and predators, with both species flourishing.

Now that theory is being put to the test in an experiment at Langholm in Dumfriesshire. Although no one involved is yet prepared to discuss it publicly, it is an open secret that game birds have suffered a catastrophic decline on the moor — which once had the



"A disappointing shoot. I only managed to bag a brace"

Grouse disaster sets RSPB a life-or-death dilemma

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

The hands-off experiment on the Duke of Buccleuch's 25,000-acre estate, now in its final year, has been part-funded by the RSPB, which is monitoring the findings.

Until it was launched, gamekeepers controlled the predators, although they were prevented by law from shooting or poisoning them. Now they stand back as buzzards, hawks and hen harriers, hunting in pairs, take their toll. The result, in their view, has been nothing short of a disaster. Some local landowners believe the moor may never recover.

The Langholm report, which is expected to be drawn up later this year, will come at a point when grouse shooting faces a crisis. Last week, figures produced by the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Leading article, page 17

United puncture the £15m dreams

BY ROB HUGHES

ALAN SHEARER, the world's most expensive footballer, was brought back down to earth yesterday afternoon when his new team suffered a drubbing at the hands of Manchester United — the side he rejected.

Before 73,214 Wembley spectators, many of whom had turned up to gloat that the former Blackburn star had opted to sign for Newcastle for £15 million, the message was that no one man makes a team. A striker not served with the ball cannot score, and if the opponents are better in every department he is lost.

Newcastle were beaten in the Charity Shield, the traditional curtain-raiser to the English football season, by four goals to nil. Manchester United, holders of the Premier League and FA Cup double, demonstrated that in team work, in thought and pace and deed, they remain superior.

The afternoon began with

Reports, pages 21, 27

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Octuplet woman's boyfriend 'not told of drugs'

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

MEDICAL experts were astonished yesterday that Mandy Allwood, the single mother pregnant with octuplets, was given fertility treatment without her boyfriend's agreement.

Doctors said they found it "extraordinary" that a private clinic in Birmingham apparently did not consult Paul Hudson, 37, before giving Miss Allwood, 31, the hormone Metformin and a booster drug Pregnyl.

Mr Hudson, a property consultant who has two children from another current relationship, discovered that his lover was taking the powerful ovulation drugs only after she had started the course. He said he found the idea of fertility treatment "unnatural" and was not ready to have another child, though he said he will stand by her.

Miss Allwood was told that, if she had sex while undergoing the treatment, she risked a multiple pregnancy. After taking two doses of the seven-day course, she confessed to Mr Hudson, who insisted she stop immediately.

Miss Allwood, from Solihull, was referred by her GP to a consultant who is understood to have treated her at the private Priory Hospital in Edgbaston.

Most such clinics insist on counselling potential parents as a couple. Dr Gillian Lockwood, clinical research fellow in fertility attached to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, said: "I was very surprised that this woman's partner did not know what was happening. In my clinic and in most of the clinics I know, we don't treat women, we treat couples."

Mother in hiding, page 3
Matthew Parris, page 16



Julian Green, who was killed by an erupting volcano while in the Philippines on a coral conservation scheme



Mount Canlaon: sent ash 5,000ft into the air

that he had gained a first class honours degree after studying neuro-sciences at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School at the University of London.

The tragedy, in which two Filipinos, Noel Tragico and Noel Perez also died and several Belgian students were injured, one seriously, occurred early on Saturday morning when two groups of people had reached the rim of the active volcano.

After the explosion some survivors, including Mr Cole, were forced to spend the night on the mountain before being airlifted to hospital.

One of the Belgian students, Philip Coucke, paid tribute to Mr Cole's courage. He said: "On the mountain he was a really big help."

Mr Coucke said that as the mountain erupted he threw himself into a shallow depression

as hot ash darkened the sky, making it difficult to breathe. "I was shouting that I would suffocate but then the wind blew away, the dark clouds," he said.

Florence de Corte, 20, another Belgian, said: "It was horrific. I saw ash falling down. It was very dark. like

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

THE SCIENCE OF



Part 2 of our series
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Why a man's best
accessory is a baby

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PHONES TO
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THURSDAY

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MEDICAL
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famous:
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PLUS:
The Valerie
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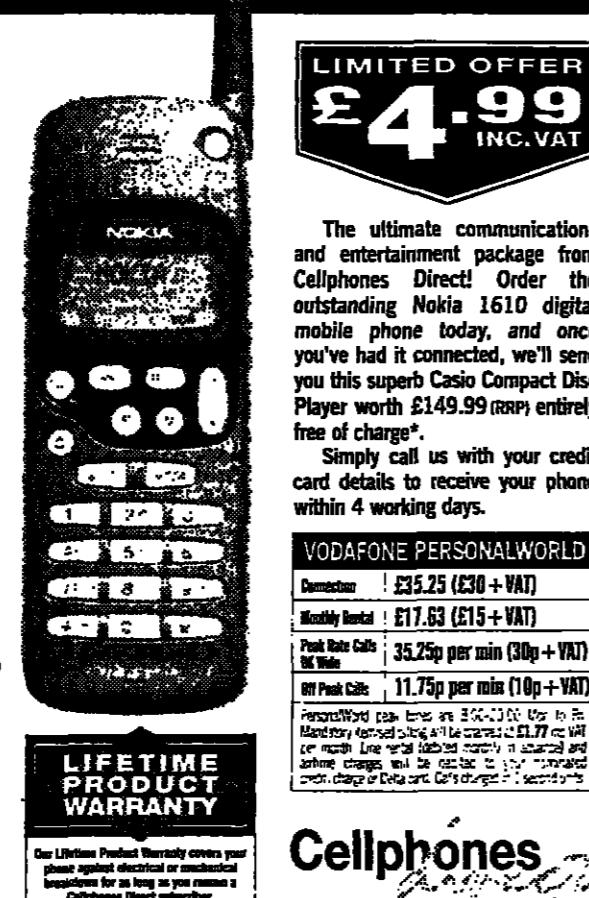
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Head of state must remain above politics

The Fabian plan for the monarchy would bring party politics into constitutional areas which are better as politics-free zones, says Vernon Bogdanor

A MODERN constitutional monarch fulfils two roles, a constitutional one as head of state and a symbolic one as head of the nation. Both are best undertaken by someone free of party ties. During the VE and VJ celebrations last year, the Queen represented the nation to itself in a way impossible for a former party politician, whether an elected president or the Speaker of the Commons.

François Mitterrand was president of just one part of France, not of the whole nation. Mary Robinson is widely respected in the Irish republic, but one of her predecessors, Gearbhail O'Dalaigh, was, in effect, forced out of office in 1976 by a government which was politically opposed to him. It would not benefit Britain to have a head of state who

was at the mercy of the government. The fundamental reform which Paul Richards favours — transferring the sovereign's power to appoint a Prime Minister and dissolve Parliament to the Speaker — was achieved in Sweden in 1974. Its main consequence has been to politicise the Speaker. The choice of Speaker has become part of the political battle. In Britain, a Conservative majority would hardly allow the election of Betty Boothroyd, a

Labour MP, were the Speaker to be given these new powers. It would instead choose a less worthy figure but one who could be relied upon to defend the interests of the government. This would be a real accretion of power to the governing party. Yet one main aim of the constitutional reform movement is to limit the powers of government and place them under constitutional control.

Mr Richards wants a ten-year referendum on the monarchy. But

the referendums we have had so far — on Europe and on devolution — have been on propositions put forward by the government of the day. What would be the point of a referendum on the monarchy when all the main political parties favour it? Besides, in 1995 a MORI poll revealed 41 per cent satisfied with the constitutional role of the monarchy, a higher score than for any institution other than local councils. Parliament and the courts score only 34 per cent each. Should we have referendums on them as well?

Mr Richards want to replace the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth with a rotating headship. But with 53 member states and a six-month term, each state would hold the headship just once every 26 years. Idi Amin was a Commonwealth Head of State. Would he have been acceptable as Head of the Commonwealth?

The monarchy, as Mr Richards suggests, must always modernise itself, and there is certainly a case for making the royal finances more transparent. Archaic legislation such as the Act of Settlement and the Royal Marriages Act could also benefit from reform. But the fundamental case for keeping the head of state uncontaminated by party ties is quite unanswerable.

Vernon Bogdanor is Professor of Government, Oxford University. His book *The Monarchy and the Constitution* was published by Oxford University Press in 1995.

JAMES MORGAN

Blair embarks on crusade to convert Labour doubters

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR has decided to tackle head-on the fears raised by Clare Short about his revolution in the Labour Party and embark on a crusade to win over the doubters.

In the first clear sign that he is ready to respond to concern about his leadership style, Mr Blair has let it be known that he will intensify his efforts to bring on board the whole of the party for his reforms. He is to use this autumn's internal debate on Labour's draft manifesto, culminating in a referendum of party members, as a test of Labour's unity. To win backing for the document, he will lead the campaign around

the country to secure party support and to try to ensure that the whole party is comfortable with the changes.

Mr Blair is said by close allies to be determined that there should be no retreat from the policy and organisational changes. But his move is an acknowledgement that Ms Short, in her highly critical interview in the *New Statesman*, was probably speaking for others in the party who are unhappy at the scale and pace of change and at suggestions that Mr Blair is turning his back on Labour's past.

Those misgivings were echo-

ed yesterday by two former Labour Cabinet ministers, Peter Shore and Roy Hattersley. Mr Shore, speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, said that Labour was failing to take on the Tories "on the high ground of politics". Mr Shore said: "It is no good pretending that we are a party which is no longer interested in re-distributing income in favour of those who are less advantaged than us in our society. It is no good pretending we are no longer in favour of improving and expanding our community services. They are fundamental and the very instinct of the Labour movement."

Mr Shore said the party spin-doctors were wrong to try to push the message that Labour no longer believed in higher spending on public services, and so in higher taxes, so as to avoid frightening Tory wavemakers. "The high ground of politics is always very much about taxation. To what purpose is it justified or not, are you part of a community or are you an individual?"

Mr Hattersley, the former deputy Labour leader, wrote in *The Observer* that the leadership would be recklessly insensitive to ignore Ms Short's complaint that Labour was becoming ashamed of its own past. "Writing off the last 30 years looks like abandoning the basic principles on which the policies of those three decades were built."

Mr Blair will use his full authority to get the maximum support for the manifesto document. He is reported to be confident that when he puts over his case directly to the party it will strongly back him, as in the past. But his apparent readiness to listen to the fears of the traditionalists is significant and will be welcomed by party activists and figures such as Ms Short.

Leading article, page 17

Tories accused of demonising smear

LABOUR'S election chief last night accused the Conservatives of trying to buy victory with the biggest negative advertising campaign in British political history (Philip Webster writes).

As the Tories unveiled a new poster depicting Tony Blair with demonic eyes, Peter Mandelson said that if they were prepared to portray a practising Christian as the devil, there were no limits to how far they would go in personalising the campaign. The new poster, drawn up by the party's advertising agency at the urging of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, was the immediate response to last week's comments by Clare Short.

It has the caption: "One of Labour's leaders Clare Short says dark forces behind Tony Blair manipulate policy in a sinister way."

Some senior Conservatives privately voiced alarm over

the campaign. One said: "It is dangerously personal. Labour tends to keep off Major. I'm not sure we should be going for Blair. The public does not like it."

Mr Mandelson, who has been appointed as chief election strategist by Mr Blair and was assumed to be one of Ms Short's "dark forces", said negative campaigning was "designed to engender irrational fear".

Dr Mawhinney denied that the campaign was an attempt to "demonise" the Labour leader. On GMTV, he said: "I don't think it is personal, certainly not in the sense of trying to demonise Mr Blair. What it is doing is taking Clare Short's words and saying to the British people, 'If a Labour leader says that it is sinister, that's a lie, it's dangerous, then they ought to take note'."

It has the caption: "One of Labour's leaders Clare Short says dark forces behind Tony Blair manipulate policy in a sinister way."

Some senior Conservatives privately voiced alarm over

Nationalist sit-down blocks road in protest at march

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND AUDREY MAGEE

MORE than 100 nationalist protesters tried to block a loyalist march in Co Londonderry last night as a weekend of contentious marches in Northern Ireland drew to a close.

Police in riot gear were drafted into the village of Bellaghy as the demonstrators, including members of Sinn Fein, staged a sit-down protest on the main road against the march by 200 members of the Royal Black Preceptory.

Negotiations between the two sides, which were organised by the RUC, continued as nationalists vowed

strong objections to the march through the predominantly Roman Catholic village.

Other contentious marches throughout Northern Ireland during the weekend passed off relatively peacefully. Nationalist and Unionist leaders in Londonderry took heart after the biggest march of the day, attended by thousands of loyalist Apprentice Boys, took place without incident.

However, disturbances broke out in the city in the early hours of yesterday when nationalists "barged" petrol bombs at the police and at Londonderry's war memorial. Police fired scores of plastic

bullets to disperse the crowd. Police also fired plastic bullets on Saturday evening when loyalist protesters hurled stones at RUC lines in Dunloy, Co Antrim. The police were attacked when they prevented Apprentice Boys returning home from Londonderry from marching through a nationalist area.

A Sinn Fein rally in Belfast, which was held to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial, also passed off peacefully yesterday. Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president, said the issue of contentious marches had to be resolved.

Leading article, page 17

RSPB dilemma

Scottish Landowners' Federation (SLF) showed that since 1977 stocks of grouse have crashed.

Although this season suggests a mild recovery, the prospects are bleak for landowners who need large numbers of birds to attract the big-spending shooting clients they need to make ends meet.

The SLF estimated that in 1994 revenues from grouse shooting brought in only £3 million in Scotland against expenditure of £13.7 million. At least 100 moors have gone out of commission in the past five years, with the loss of about 400 jobs.

The RSPB may well argue that helping landowners to build up stocks of grouse is not its business. But it will find it hard to dispute the findings of a survey in which it has taken part. And if they reveal the loss of other birds, such as

larks, curlew and plover, it may have to take action.

Last weekend, David Minns, RSPB head of public affairs for Scotland, explained his experiment. However, he pointed out that on the society's own 32,000-acre estate at Abernethy, where the preservation of black grouse and capercaille has been the main objective, they have achieved significant increases in numbers without any control of birds of prey — though they have had to shoot foxes and crows and cull deer.

The answer lies in having a far greater variety of vegetation than you would see on a traditional grouse moor, he said. "If you have trees and scrub, it gives the grouse somewhere to hide and more to feed on."

The RSPB may well argue that helping landowners to build up stocks of grouse is not its business. But it will find it hard to dispute the findings of a survey in which it has taken part. And if they reveal the loss of other birds, such as

Volcano

Continued from page 1
last. Several stones hit my body. I could not run. I hid behind a rock. I saw many of my friends being hit by stones." Ms de Curte said. Another survivor said: "The explosion was ... like an atomic bomb."

Yesterday, Mr Green's mother, Gill, 47, a teacher, said the whole family had been devastated by news of the tragedy.

She said that her son was helping to make records of the coral and fish life in the Philippines. "He was going to return to do three years' clinical work to qualify as a doctor. This was his last long holiday before starting his working life and he wanted to put it to good use."

Mrs Green said her son loved travel and adventure and three years ago had won the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Sport gets £30m boost

The Lottery Sports Funds have given £30 million to 23 different sports in the latest round of awards. The two biggest grants are to Hampshire County Cricket Club, in Southampton, which gets £7.1 million towards a £10.7 million ground relocation scheme, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, which receives £7 million towards an £8.2 million volleyball project.

Leading article, page 17

The cost of rebuilding Manchester city centre is likely to reach £1 billion as damage from the IRA bomb in June continues to be uncovered. The final bill will not be known until November when the city council presents figures to the Government but it expects to face a shortfall running into tens of millions of pounds. Council leaders and the City Centre Task Force are preparing to seek more help.

Thunderstorm alert

The thunderstorms and heavy rain that swept the country yesterday are set to continue today, with the risk of some flooding across the South East. Parts of London, East Anglia and the North were deluged with sudden rain yesterday. A spokesman for the Meteorological Office said: "We are not out of the woods yet." He gave warning of local flash floods.

Forecast, page 20

years. Idi Amin was a Commonwealth Head of State. Would he have been acceptable as Head of the Commonwealth?

The monarchy, as Mr Richards suggests, must always modernise itself, and there is certainly a case for making the royal finances more transparent. Archaic legislation such as the Act of Settlement and the Royal Marriages Act could also benefit from reform. But the fundamental case for keeping the head of state uncontaminated by party ties is quite unanswerable.

Mr Richards want to replace the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth with a rotating headship. But with 53 member states and a six-month term, each state would hold the headship just once every 26 years.

Paul Richards, author of the report, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday



Fabians' political influence far outstrips historic group's size

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE Fabian Society, which published a report on the future of the monarchy yesterday, was founded in 1884 in London with the goal of achieving a democratic socialist state.

The Fabians put their faith in evolutionary socialism rather than in revolution. The name of the society was derived from the Roman general Fabius Cunctator, whose pa-

</div

A possible £1m in deals is dependent on a large number of the eight foetuses being born

Mother in hiding as PR man seeks sponsorship

By CAROL MIDDLETON

MANDY ALLWOOD, the single mother expecting eight babies, was seeking sanctuary at a secret address in the Home Counties last night from the "media circus" surrounding her high-risk pregnancy.

Miss Allwood, 31, who has sold her story to the *News of the World* for an estimated £100,000, was accused of gambling her life and the lives of all her unborn children by insisting on proceeding without interference with the pregnancy, which she hopes will raise £1 million in newspaper and sponsorship payments.

The former property consultant and her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, 37, have enlisted the services of Max Clifford, the PR consultant. He is contacting car, baby food and disposable-nappy companies to find a sponsorship deal.

Meanwhile the couple, from Solihull in the West Midlands, have asked the *News of the World* to provide them with a secret address close to King's College Hospital in south London, where Miss Allwood is under the care of Professor Kyriacos Nicolaides, head of foetal medicine.

Doctors have advised Miss Allwood to have some of the embryos aborted or risk losing them all and damaging her own health. She has said: "I know some people will call us irresponsible but as far as I am concerned, the more the merrier."

The newspaper is understood to be paying for a private tutor for Miss Allwood's son from a previous marriage, Charlie, 5, during

their period in hiding. Yesterday Phil Hall, the *News of the World's* Editor, denied there was a "sliding scale" in operation, where the deal was dependent on how many babies Miss Allwood had and he insisted she was not out to make her fortune from the octuplets. "She does not want to gain financially for herself; she wants the money to bring up, feed and clothe her children," he said.

"If she doesn't have any children she doesn't get any money. If she gives birth to eight babies she will need a lot of money, if she gives birth to six she will still need a lot of money. If she loses two or three children we are still very interested in her story and the deal still stands."

He added that if Miss Allwood miscarried or did not go through with the pregnancy the newspaper would "pay her a small amount and send her on holiday". He declined to say how much was being paid to the couple but invited that reported figures of £30,000 were "way off the mark".

Mr Clifford, however, said that how much sponsorship Miss Allwood attracted would depend on how many babies she had. "But the deal will benefit Mandy and Paul if, God forbid, she doesn't have any children at all. It is market forces. If she gives birth to two or three babies, well, lots of people have done that. If she gives birth to seven or eight there will be huge world interest."

Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, said: "It is a delicate, sensitive and extremely



Clifford: believes market forces dictate interest

serious matter that ought not to be milked for money. To try to make money out of a medical oddity this kind is extremely distasteful."

Miss Allwood told the *News of the World*: "I'm deliriously happy. I want nature to take its course." The couple rejected advice to abort six embryos. Mr Hudson said: "That's too horrific to contemplate. Our eight babies were obviously meant to be."

Pro-life groups welcomed Miss Allwood's desire to keep all the babies. Professor Jack Scarisbrick of the anti-abortion group Life had pleaded for nature to be allowed to take its course as some foetuses

could naturally die as the pregnancy progressed. He said: "I am delighted by her pro-life response to this challenge."

Mr Hudson, a property consultant, first contacted Central Television in Birmingham to tout the story. He then rang the *News of the World* and met representatives last Monday. On Wednesday he and Miss Allwood travelled to Wimbledon, southwest London, to meet Mr Clifford, who is now helping to shield them from rival television and newspaper reporters.

"If all goes well over the next year we are talking about £1 million in sponsorship, syndication and deals. She will need every penny she can get," Mr Clifford said.

"She doesn't believe in abortion, it's that simple. I guess it is a sign of the times that the first person she contacted was her gynaecologist and the second was the PR. I think she has done the right thing. Right now she isn't the one being besieged by the press, I am, and that has got to be better for her."

Last night the father of Miss Allwood's ex-husband, Simon, described her as "an extremely astute woman who is very ambitious". Andrew Pugh, from Solihull, said: "All I care about is Charlie, who is my own flesh and blood. I am determined to try to ensure that he does not suffer permanently because of all this attention to his mother and her unborn babies."

"It is up to the parents what they do, but I honestly don't know what effect it would have on Charlie. If you had eight other kids the pressure on everything would be immense."



Mandy Allwood and her boyfriend Paul Hudson, neither of whom countenance abortions

Pregnancy that should be viewed as a catastrophe for all involved



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

not mention that there had been previous evidence of ovulatory failure and, indeed, she had an abortion three years ago, after receiving drugs following a car crash.

If history was to be made and

Miss Allwood's eight embryos did live, the home background would not strike most doctors as an ideal one for the children. Paul Hudson, her boyfriend, is not living with her and has publicly said he does not intend to, for he has two

children by another current girlfriend. Not unnaturally, Mr Hudson says that he was opposed to Miss Allwood becoming pregnant at all. The dangers of misguided fertility treatment are well-known. Multiple pregnancies result in premature delivery and unfortunately when these very small babies live they are likely to suffer physical and mental damage. Multiple pregnancies also carry an increased risk to the mother, both during the pregnancy and from severe bleeding and the danger of an obstructive blood clot after delivery. The accepted adage is that all the complications of pregnancy become more likely

when it is multiple, and that they will also probably be more severe.

Miss Allwood's account of her fertility treatment is rather vague. She says that she was prescribed Metrodin (urofollitrophin) together with Pregnyl (chorionic gonadotrophin) after consultation with her GP. But she does not actually say that it was her own doctor who gave her these preparations. It is very unusual for GPs to provide infertility treatment of this sort because the response to Metrodin, which stimulates the ovary to produce the eggs, has to be monitored carefully by ultrasound and taking hormone levels. After a suitable ovarian response to

Metrodin — which is not the simultaneous ripening of eight ova — Pregnyl is given to bring about ovulation, the release of the eggs.

When the use of Metrodin, which is made from the urine of post-menopausal women, results in hyperstimulation of the ovaries, multiple pregnancies are not the only hazard. Hyperstimulation also causes enlargement of the ovary; if the patient is fortunate she may suffer no more than abdominal discomfort, possibly severe enough to be classified as pain, but if she is unlucky the hyperstimulation may lead to serious haemorrhage if the enlarged cysts rupture. There have been

deaths from this cause and also from another complication of hyperstimulation, deep vein thrombosis.

Mothers who have an overabundance of maternal feelings may think that it would be nice to have an instant family the size of a nursery class. Doctors who have seen the results of some premature deliveries are less enthusiastic about this maternal dream; they know that to conceive eight babies at once, however good the home background, presents a failure, not success. So great is the failure that even the thought of a reward of £1 million would not justify the experiment.

Time ran out for heart defect girl

By DES BURKINSHAW

A GIRL aged two has died from a congenital heart defect after spending nearly all her life on a hospital waiting list. The parents of Natalie Kelley say that she was denied life-saving treatment because Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, had only one paediatric heart surgeon, who was too busy to operate on their daughter.

The hospital is seeking to employ a second surgeon after admitting that it breached the Patients' Charter guidelines on waiting times.

The girl's congenital defect was diagnosed shortly after her birth. Her parents, Robert and Sadie Kelley, said that doctors had warned them that she would need an operation before her first birthday if she were to live.

They are demanding an inquiry. Mrs Kelley, 24, from Dewsbury, west Yorkshire, said that the family felt mistreated by the hospital. "We know that if they had done this operation Natalie would have stood a chance. She didn't deserve to die like this."

The child died on June 5 after collapsing at home. A

Pupils face more murder inquiries

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND STEWART TENDER

THE headmaster of Launceston College spoke of his hopes yesterday for "an end to the uncertainty" over the murder of Caroline Dickinson, as French police prepared to travel to Cornwall to question pupils at the school again.

Caroline, 13, was raped and smothered three weeks ago in a youth hostel on the last night of a school trip to Plaine Fougeres in Brittany. Patrice Pade, 39, a local tramp who was arrested and charged after apparently confessing to Caroline's murder, was freed on Thursday after DNA tests cleared him.

A spokesman for the hospital said: "We have every sympathy for Natalie's parents at this very sad time and if they have any unresolved concerns I would urge them to contact the hospital."

Patients are reviewed to make sure they are not deteriorating. It seems as though Natalie did so very suddenly. It seems as though the information given to the parents was not as full as it should have been."

Paul Wroath, the headmaster, said yesterday that many of his pupils had already been interviewed for up to five

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Laugh a minute as festival comics try to avoid the one-man audience

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FIGHT for audiences on this year's Edinburgh fringe may be beyond a joke. A total of 185 comedy shows are competing for attention, 40 per cent up on last year and four times higher than a decade ago.

They are up against more than 14,000 fringe performances by 9,000 artists of all varieties, plus the International Festival and the Drambuie Film Festival. The 50th year of the three-week arts bonanza began last night with the international premiere of *Dragonheart*, starring Sean Connery as the dragon's voice.

The film festival also includes premieres of REM's *Road Movie*, *Mulholland Falls* starring Nick Nolte, Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*, and a visit by Jarvis Cocker of Pulp to talk about his pop videos. The International Festival includes the Mark Morris

Dance Group at the Festival Theatre, and Miranda Richardson in *Orlando* at the Royal Lyceum.

One comedian, Chris Addison, recalled the horror of last year's Edinburgh fringe: his double-act with a friend was to a one-man audience. The venue had 50 seats. Having an early morning slot did not help.

The man's solitary clapping echoed through the hall as he said: "Very good guys." Addison has been picked to appear in the BBC New Comedy Awards.

The comics are hoping to be seen by the dozens of talent-scouting agents, producers and promoters from as far afield as Australia, as well as the judges for this year's Perrier awards. The top prize, announced on August 24, is only £3,000, but all shortlisted winners get an autumn season in London.

Winning the prize has become a fast-track to stardom. Lee Evans became a

film star, with three offers from Hollywood. Nica Burns, director of the Perrier awards, said: "He was always going to make it. The Perrier just made it a bit quicker."

Last year's Perrier winner, Jenny Eclair, is back again. Among those making their debut this year with a full-length show is Matt Welcome, formerly a telecommunications computer analyst, who decided to try his luck in showbusiness after a successful speech as best man. He said: "It was the first bit of public speaking I'd done. Friends encouraged me to do some comedy in the local pub. Then someone at work died. That planted the seed. I thought, I don't want to die in this office. I didn't want my life to go by."

He specialises in the surreal and the sarcastic, such as: "When I was very young, I had this feeling I was a boy, but a boy (trapped inside a woman's body). Then I was born and it sorted itself out."

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

Howard agrees to compensate supergun informant



Paul Grecian: to claim more than £500,000 in damages

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman who told the intelligence services about Iraq's secret Supergun project is to receive compensation from the Home Office after his conviction for selling arms to Baghdad was quashed by the Appeal Court.

Paul Grecian, former managing director of Ordtec, a Reading-based arms company now in liquidation, received a suspended sentence in 1992 for illegally exporting an artillery fuse assembly line to Iraq.

His conviction was quashed when it was revealed he had been working as an informant for MI6 and MI5, and that documents disclosing his relationship with the intelligence services had been withheld from the defence counsel. Mr

Grecian, 41, who has been unemployed since his company closed, applied to the Home Office for compensation under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, claiming miscarriage of justice. His case was also examined as part of the Scott inquiry into the arms-for-trad affair.

Yesterday Lawrence Kormornick, Mr Grecian's solicitor, said Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had now decided to make, without admission of liability, a payment from public funds. He said he was now preparing a "schedule of loss" — likely to be "well in excess of £500,000" — to compensate for pain, suffering and hardship as well as loss of earnings, "past, present and future". Mr Grecian described the compensation deci-

sion yesterday as "a major step forward".

More than half a dozen former company executives at the heart of the Scott inquiry are involved in claims against the Government, totalling millions of pounds. Paul Henderson, Trevor Abraham and Peter Allen, the three former executives of Matrix Churchill who were acquitted of charges relating to the sale to Iraq of machine-tooling equipment, are claiming against Customs and Excise.

Reginald Dunk of Atlantic Commercial Ltd and Alexander Schlesinger, a consultant to the company, whose convictions for selling sub-machineguns to Iraq via Jordan were quashed two years ago, were told in April that they were to receive compensation from the Home Office for miscarriage of

justice. Apart from his case against the Home Office, Mr Grecian has been granted legal aid to sue

Customs for wrongful arrest and/or malicious prosecution. A writ is expected within months, with a damages claim also in excess of £500,000.

Mr Grecian still faces charges in the United States of illegally selling artillery fuses to Iraq and recently spent five months in jail in South Africa after being arrested at Johannesburg airport on an Interpol warrant. He was freed by a court to return to Britain.

Ordtec's artillery fuse contract was with Space Research Corporation, a Geneva-based company through which Gerald Bull, designer of the Iraqi Supergun, carried out business. The fuses were to be exported to the Jordanian

forces, although Mr Grecian said they knew nothing of Ordtec's involvement in the contract when they first met him.

Sir Richard Scott said in his report that the Ordtec affair was complicated by the fact that Mr Grecian, like Mr Henderson of Matrix Churchill, was helping the intelligence services. However, the timing of his information about the Supergun has always been crucial. Mr Grecian claimed he first mentioned it to the Metropolitan Police Special Branch in January 1989 and MI5 and MI6 soon after. The Special Branch and MI5 and MI6 insisted the meeting took place on December 21, 1989.

The intelligence services argued that Mr Grecian's assistance as an informant began only after his company had signed the deal to sell

the fuse assembly to Iraq. They also said they knew nothing of Ordtec's involvement in the contract when they first met him.

Sir Richard supported the intelligence services' recollection of the timing of the initial meeting and also cast doubt on Mr Grecian's claim that he had spoken about his company's fuse deal each time he met his contacts in MI6 and MI5. Sir Richard said he was convinced Mr Grecian made no mention of the fuse contract until May 15, 1990.

An MI6 officer said he warned Mr Grecian that the intelligence services could not sanction any breach of UK law, including exporting munitions with a false end-user certificate. Mr Grecian denied a warning was given.

Sanctions, page 9

Government launches inquiry

Exam board sets grade C maths GCSE at 14%

BY JOEL WOLCHOVER

Education officials are investigating an examination board that reduced the grade C pass mark in a GCSE mathematics paper to just 14 per cent.

The reduction brought down the mark needed to get a grade A to 43 per cent, according to the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), which monitors the performance of exam boards.

The Department for Education will begin an inquiry today into allegations that the Southern Examining Group (SEG) reduced the pass level after this year's results showed that candidates had not done as well as expected.

A department spokeswoman confirmed that SEG, which sets GCSE mathematics papers taken by about a

third of candidates, had been investigated two years ago for similar "grade boundary inconsistencies". She said: "Standards have to be maintained at a certain level and an examination board such as this has to adhere to that standard. We are concerned about standards, we want them to be as high as possible. "Our officials will be inquiring of this board how it came to mark these papers in this way. If we are still not happy with the explanation, the SCAA will be asked to take a second look."

Although the investigation is at an early stage, Gillian Sheppard, the Education Secretary, has the power to take away the group's right to set examinations.

Last year Mrs Sheppard introduced controls on the

number of syllabuses allowed in several GCSE subjects, including mathematics, after a lengthy investigation into the marking practices of SEG and the London University Examination and Assessment Council. The investigation, carried out by the SCAA, concluded that the SEG had given out more GCSE B grades than were justified when marking mathematics and science papers taken in 1994.

Tony Mills, assistant chief executive of the SCAA, said that the recommendations made after that inquiry may have prompted SEG to set a particularly difficult paper this year, making it harder for candidates to score high marks, which in turn affected the level at which grades were awarded.

"The grade B inquiry indicated that SEG needed to reconsider its standards in mathematics," he said. "This year's results will be kept under particularly close scrutiny, to make sure there is no major discrepancy between this year's results and last year's or with other examining boards."

Mr Mills added that the SCAA would be asking for a report from its independent observer, who was at the meeting at which SEG officials decided that one paper was so hard that a mark of 43 per cent would merit a grade A.

Up to a third of SEG's 200,000 GCSE mathematics candidates sat the paper under investigation. It carries 35 per cent of the total marks and, taken with another paper and coursework, forms the hardest combination candidates can take.

George Turnbull, a spokesman for SEG, defended the board's marking practices. He said: "If the examination paper is more difficult, it will be harder for students to get marks, therefore the raw score will be lower. If it is easier, students will have to get a higher percentage to get the same grade."

"I can guarantee that the standards of the scripts for that particular paper are equivalent to a grade C from last year's examination, and the previous year's examination."

However, the low pass grade was criticised by the Engineering Employers' Federation. Ann Bailey, its head of education, said: "Fourteen per cent may make the grade for the Southern Examining Group but it doesn't make the grade for the engineering industry. Engineering employers need to know that recruits have a good grounding in maths and credible qualifications. A 14 per cent pass mark is neither."

News of the decision came as next week's GCSE results were expected to reveal a rise in pass rates for the ninth year running, prompting renewed criticism that exams are getting easier.

After the need to rethink the direction of study and career, the second most common reason for not taking up an offered place was rejection by a first-choice university, followed by personal reasons and money worries.

"This points to a crying need for candidates to apply for higher education when they are older and when they already have their results."

After the need to rethink the direction of study and career, the second most common reason for not taking up an offered place was rejection by a first-choice university, followed by personal reasons and money worries.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is consulting on a twin-track system which would allow applicants to choose whether to apply on predicted A-level

Early choices deter army of 'lost' students

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of well-qualified sixthformers turn down places at university because they are made to specialise too early, admissions officials say in a report today.

More than 33,000 students with sufficient exam grades decided not to go to university last year. One in seven of these was offered a place but turned it down, usually because they wanted to rethink their career path.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service blames the "lost" students on the narrowness of A-level study and the need to apply for a university place up to a year before the course starts. This means the choice of degree may be based on only the first year of A-level study.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of UCAS, says: "Our research suggests that people are having to make up their minds far too early on what they want to study and are perhaps being led into a specialisation far too soon."

"This points to a crying need for candidates to apply for higher education when they are older and when they already have their results."

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Tony Higgins: said decisions had to be made too early

grades many months in advance, as now, or to wait until after A-level results.

Last year UCAS received 205,000 applications from students who had achieved sufficient grades for university — that is, at least two grade Es at A level or equivalent.

Chris May, 20, was accepted by Lancaster University last summer for a business management degree but decided to take time to reconsider his future. He left college with a merit in his general national vocational qualification in business, equivalent to two good A levels.

Mr May, an assistant bar manager in Exeter, said: "I took the business course because a careers adviser said it would leave my options open. However, I found it closed options for me when I left college. People are made to choose too early. You have to have your whole life planned out before you go to university and if you don't you could waste three years."

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"Hello, hello, hello": Liam Gallagher opened proceedings at Knebworth, greeting 250,000 fans. Photograph: Gill Allen

Big is beautiful as Oasis take their place in the record books

YOU'RE making history, you lot," the beaming Noel Gallagher says, looming over the audience on the largest video screen in the world. And indeed they are: 250,000 people over two days made Oasis at Knebworth one of the biggest gigs in British history.

Three million people, 5 per cent of the population, applied for tickets and those lucky enough to get them were treated to two new songs, *My Big Mouth* and *It's Getting Better*. Along with tried and tested hits, with a guest list of 7,000 there were plenty of opportunities for star-spotting: Mick Hucknall of *Simply Red*, Jarvis Cocker and Kate Moss made their way to the celebrity enclosure to compare bodyguards with Liam

Gallagher and Patsy Kensit, and all looked disingenuously surprised when mobbed by amateur paparazzi.

For those not chosen one, there were tickets still available at a price. Cro-Magnon touts were willing to get you into "The Gig of the Decade" for £300, a sizeable mark-up from £22.50. Once inside, many would have gladly paid £300 to avoid queues. There were 400-yard tailbacks for each bar and toilet. But with the temperature into the 80s

and a PA so powerful everyone was guaranteed to leave touched by tinnitus, such matters were of little importance. Oasis took to the stage at 9pm, greeted by a roar so huge that flocks of birds took to the sky from Knebworth's old oaks.

"Hello, hello, hello," Liam said, making a fairly good job of John Lennon's famous "retard" impression. "Let's go." And off they went, kicking out the music that has made the Top 40 truly exciting for the first time in ten

years and working hard for the estimated £5.6 million the weekend accrued.

Joined for the inevitable encore of *Champagne Supernova* by The Stone Roses's ex-guitar player John Squire — one of Noel Gallagher's heroes — Oasis bowed out in a blaze of guitar solos and a firework display. As many tired and emotional punters fell over backwards, disoriented from staring at the sky so long, Martin Carr of the Bob Radleys said: "Everyone in Britain — except Damon from Blur — loves Oasis. They can do no wrong." He would appear to be right.

■ Nine fans were arrested after Saturday's concert, for public order offences when 15,000 tried to board one train at Stevenage.

Yard unit to fight crime at sea

Scotland Yard is creating a seagoing unit with two £100,000 boats. Officers from the Thames division, who usually patrol London rivers, are to be trained to provide back-up for Customs and immigration investigators and navy operations.

The six-man unit is being created because no other agency involved with boarding vessels has full police powers to carry out searches and make arrests. The 20ft rigid inflatable boats will be delivered in the autumn.

Government eye

The Department of Transport uses the most private detectives in Government, according to figures collated by a Labour MP. Last year it spent £477,000 seeking evidence against trespassers on road-building sites and on processing legal documents.

MP's boycott

A Tory MP has banned German wines from his hotel in protest at the ban on British beef exports. Warren Hawkesley, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, runs Edderton Hall, near Welshpool, Powys, with his wife Evelyn.

Villages appeal

Four "quintessentially English" villages in Essex are to take their case against plans for 2,000 homes to the Court of Appeal. The parish councils of Bircham, Feltwell, Little Dunmow and Takeley have been overwhelmed by messages of support.

Diver killed

A diver has died while working in the North Sea. Gary Carey, 38, of Okehampton, Devon, was working from the diving support vessel *Discovery* in the Ness field, 190 miles north east of Aberdeen. He was employed by Sub Sea Offshore of Aberdeen.

Alzheimer's aid

A £250,000 laboratory at Frenshay Hospital, Bristol, is to study whether gene flaws hold the key to Alzheimer's disease. Researchers, led by Professor Gordon Wilcock, will also consider environmental and sociological factors. The lab was funded by a donation.

Oates bible

A bible which belonged to Captain Lawrence Oates is expected to fetch about £6,000 at Christie's next month. Oates chose to die rather than delay Scott's 1912 Antarctic expedition. The bible was returned to his family after researchers found the bodies.

Speedboat death

A teenager died when he fell from a speedboat in Loch Lomond yesterday. The 16-year-old was a passenger in the boat, which was being driven by another youth of the same age, who was not injured. A police inquiry is under way.

Ahead by a neck

John Evans, 49, set a world record by balancing 93 milk crates on his head for ten seconds at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. The builder, who has a 23-inch neck measurement, acquired the skill carrying piles of bricks up ladders.

Chipping in

A 5ft mermaid will be carved in a 2½-ton block of granite over the coming weeks at Land's End by Penzance artist Bas Rossouw, in the hope that visiting tourists will contribute to The Mermaid Appeal to build a £500,000 breast-care centre at Truro.

Army recruiters offer schoolboys a flying start

School, Cumbria, the plan works. He is one of about 20 schoolboys on a five-day parachuting course at the Joint Service Parachute Centre at Netheravon, Wiltshire, organised by the Royal Artillery's recruiting officer, Major Andy Waller.

"I grabbed the opportunity because I have always wanted to know what jumping out of a plane was like," said Ben, 18, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, who plans to study chemistry at Manchester University next year.

"However, I'm now fairly interested in joining the artillery because it is a diverse organisation with things like a parachute unit, commando unit, air defence and field artillery."

Huw Brook, 17, from Bradford Grammar, said the course had stretched everyone mentally and had been a good introduction to army life.

"It has certainly made me want to become an officer because you are the person that has to make decisions rather than just doing as you are told," Huw, of Halifax, said.

Although interested in the artillery, he said his future probably lay

Desperate attempts at revival lasted three hours

Five teenagers drown in car crash at holiday camp

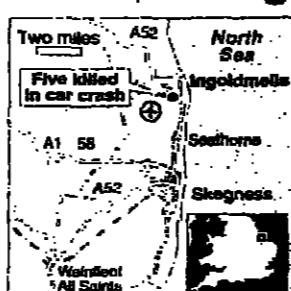
By LIN JENKINS

FIVE youths died yesterday when their car overturned and landed upside down in a dyke at a holiday caravan park.

The youths, aged between 14 and 18, who apparently had been staying in a hotel, had been visiting friends who were on a camping holiday at the park, near Skegness, Lincolnshire. Their Monte Carlo crashed through a small wooden fence and flipped over as they drove out of the caravan site shortly before 8am.

A sixth youth in the car, who had suffered minor injuries, managed to clamber out after winding down a window. He was released from hospital in Skegness yesterday. Friends travelling in a second car who were leaving at the same time fought to free those trapped as the car disappeared under 4ft of water in the 20ft wide drainage ditch.

Holidaymakers on the Corall Beach caravan site at Ingoldmells helped in the rescue.



Police arrived at the scene within four minutes, leapt into the water and pulled two teenagers clear. One of those pulled out died in hospital.

The officers were joined by firefighters and ambulance crews and the remaining youths were dragged from the car. Lengthy attempts were made to resuscitate the youths, lasting, in one case, three hours, but without success.

All the teenagers were on holiday from Leicester. Police said that they would release their names *today* after the families had formally identified the bodies.

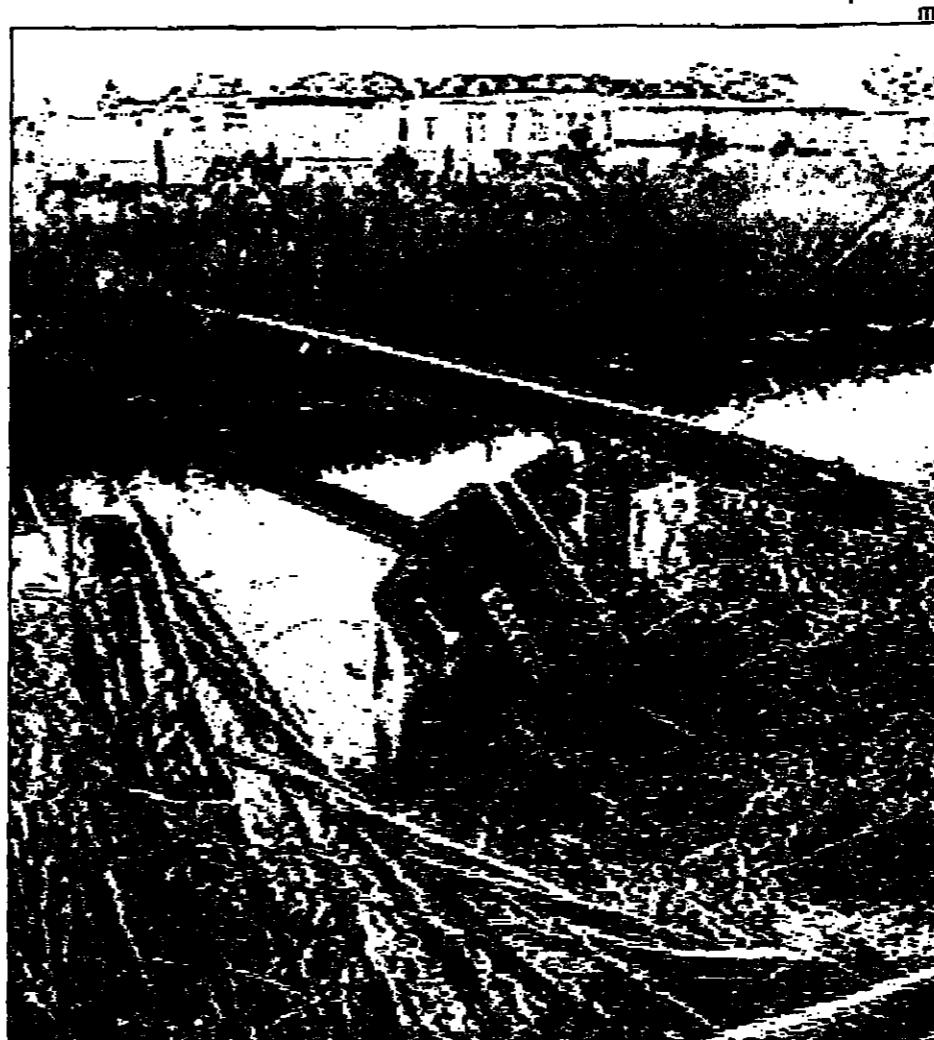
Ivy Savage, who was staying on the site, was woken by the crash and looked out. "I saw one lad get out from the water on his own - I saw him climbing up the bank. He was in a mess. I think he thought he could get back in and save them but he couldn't."

Jean Twells, whose caravan overlooks the drain, said: "I heard a terrific bang. Then I

saw the wheels of a car, which was upside down, sinking into the water. A chap was on the bank shouting for people with mobile phones to get help. He was hysterical. He said it was his car."

Mrs Twells said that the police had tried to turn the car, so that the teenagers could be pulled out. "Soon after, they managed to break one of the windows and they tried to drag the people out. They put them on plastic sheets and did their best for them but it was obvious it was too late."

Barbelle Belton, a director of the park, which has 1,000



The scene after the fatal car crash at a Lincolnshire caravan park early yesterday

Rally will mark first fatal road accident

THE 100th anniversary of the first road death in Britain will be marked this week by a rally in London.

Bridget Driscoll, of Croydon, south London, was knocked down by a car on August 17, 1896. At the inquest into Mrs Driscoll's death, the coroner expressed the hope that such a thing would never happen again.

On Saturday, a procession led by relatives of road accident victims and others injured in crashes will start from Gipsy Hill station. Dressed in black and carrying photographs of those who died, they will march to Crystal Palace park where Mrs Driscoll died to lay a wreath.

RoadPeace, a charity for road accident victims, said that since Mrs Driscoll's death, at least 500,000 people had been killed and 50 million injured on the roads. Ten people die and 800 are injured every day. The Government has set a target of reducing road casualties by one third by 2000 compared with the average for 1981-85.

Scottish nets pose fresh risk to porpoises

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FISHERMEN in Scotland have been given clearance to use nets that will kill thousands of porpoises, a species the Government has committed itself to protecting. The order permitting the use of the nets comes into force today amid a chorus of criticism from animal rights and environmental groups.

"This is the worst possible thing that could have been done," says Mark Simmonds of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. "The Government is meant to be protecting the species, not allowing the use of nets which will kill it."

On July 23, two days before Parliament rose, the inshore Monofilament Gill Net Order was laid by the Scottish Office. It allows Scottish fishermen to use large mesh nets which form a "curtain" rising from the sea bed. The nets are set and left, the fishermen returning later to lift the catch of turbot, halibut and monkfish.

Among them are certain to be many harbour porpoises, the smallest of Britain's dolphins. The porpoises get caught in the mesh and suffocate. They are mammals and need to surface to breathe.

Scottish fishermen have not been permitted to use these nets for the past decade, to restore salmon populations. What has astonished the wildlife charities is that their use is

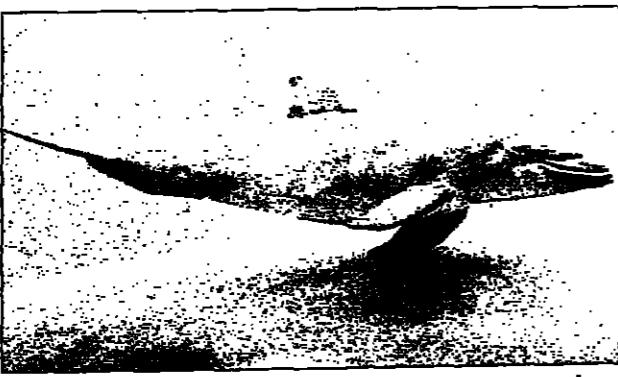
being allowed just four months after John Gummer, environment secretary, endorsed the US Biodiversity Action Plan, which identifies the harbour porpoise as a species in decline and requiring special protection.

The Scottish Office says that the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen advised that these nets were no more dangerous to porpoises than others. The order allows their use only outside the six-mile limit, to protect inshore creatures including porpoises.

Fishermen will have to record "bycatches" - species caught by accident - and send the figures to Aberdeen. But the wildlife groups have no doubt that these will include many porpoises.

Research in Danish fisheries in the North Sea recorded an annual catch of 7,000 harbour porpoises in large mesh gill nets. Figures from the environment department show that 38 per cent of the porpoises washed up dead in English and Welsh waters have died in fishing nets.

"We condemn the Government's hypocrisy in trumpeting its launch of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan while extending the use of these deadly nets which threaten one of the very species they claim to protect," says Helen McLachlan, Senior Scientific Officer of the RSPCA.



Porpoise: campaigners say Government has reneged

Successful summer for sex-swap wader

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

ONE of Britain's rarest birds, the red-necked phalarope, has had its most successful breeding season in almost 30 years. At least 40 pairs of the waders, which seldom grow more than six inches long, nested on the Shetland island of Fetlar this year, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The island's colony is estimated to represent 90 per cent of the British population, nearly all in the Shetland Islands. Phalaropes have been declining in Britain for more than a century because of human disturbance and loss of habitat, and reached a low of no more than 12 pairs in the 1980s.

David Minns, of the RSPB in Edinburgh, said: "We have used mechanical diggers to enlarge the area of breeding pools and introduced grazing by Shetland ponies to keep marshy vegetation

down to the height that best suits the birds."

Most of a phalarope's life is spent at sea in the South Atlantic or in the Arabian Gulf, but during the summer it returns to land to breed, mostly in the Arctic regions of Iceland, Norway, Russia and Canada. Northern Britain lies at the limit of the birds' breeding range.

Phalaropes are noted for their reversal of the normal sex roles. The more brightly coloured females initiate courtship and change mates every few days, leaving the discarded male to incubate the eggs and raise the chicks.



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The Antonine Wall may have been designed to generate military success for political gain in Rome

Vanishing remains of an emperor's highland fling

BY ALAN HAMILTON

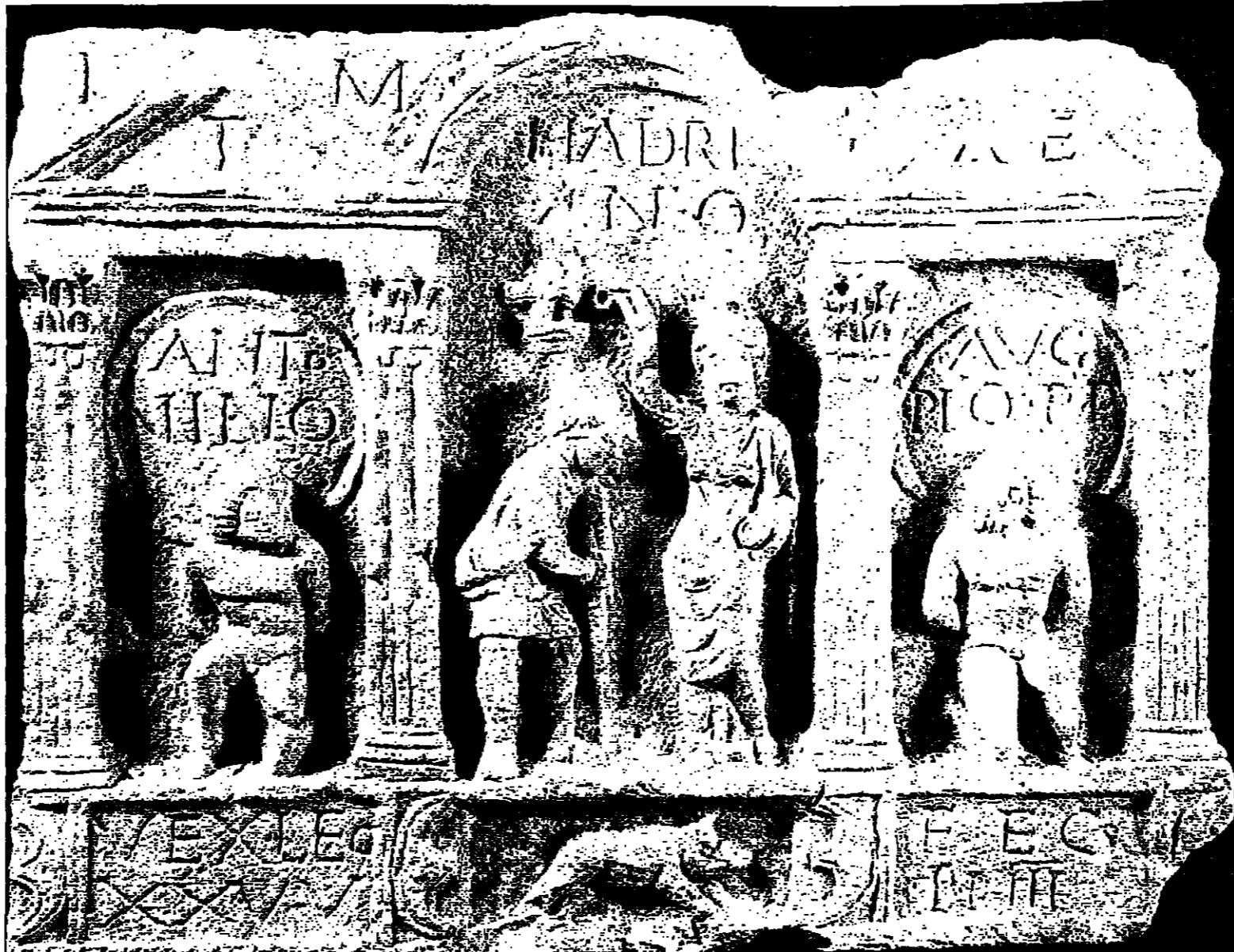
HARDLY had Hadrian completed the building of his mighty wall from Tyne to Solway than his successor as emperor, Antoninus Pius, declared it redundant. Such is the fate of grandiose strategic defence initiatives, whether launched by ancient emperors or Ronald Reagan.

Antoninus decreed that the frontier of the empire should move some 75 miles to the north; he ordered the construction of a new wall from the Forth to the Clyde. At 36 miles it was less than half the length of Hadrian's and of turf rather than stone, but was still a massive work of engineering which involved detachments of all three British legions in its construction.

Built to a height of 9ft, the Antonine Wall was surrounded by a timber patrol-walk, adding another 5ft. As the toiling gangs began and finished their allotted sections they carved and installed intricate commemorative

BY ALAN HAMILTON

Dr Lawrence Keppie with altar from wall



The legions installed carvings in the forts, such as this distance marker from the wall at Hutcheson Hill, now in the Hunterian Museum

the empire to boost his standing at home. General Lollius Urbicus was the man sent to do the job, and the Romans built a fine road, Dere Street, to service the harbours near Edinburgh. The route was roughly that taken by the modern A68 through Bishop Auckland, and the A696 through Jedburgh.

Whatever the reason, the useful life of the Antonine Wall was brief. Within 20 years it had been abandoned, and the garrison re-established on Hadrian's Wall; as likely because of a change of frontier policy dictated from

the far distance of Rome as a because the Caledonians gained the upper hand.

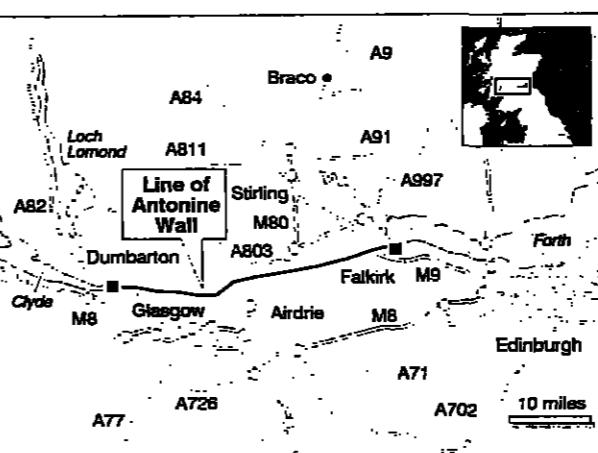
Rome continued to fight the northerners well into the fourth century, by which time the empire was fraying at the edges under the onslaught of Picts, Gauls, Franks and others from beyond the pale. But by that time the Antonine Wall was as irrelevant as the trenches of the Somme against the advance of Hitler.

Dr Lawrence Keppie, reader in Roman archaeology at the University of Glasgow, finds it one of the most commonly held misconcep-

tions that the Romans never got beyond Hadrian's Wall. He also finds widely differing attitudes to that period of history: "In southern Scotland and the borders, they take pride in their Roman history. But in the north there is more hostility to them as imperial aggressors rather than bringers of civilisation. It is all tangled up with Scottish nationalism."

They have long memories, these Highlanders.

TOMORROW: Silchester and Lullingstone



TRACING the entire length of the Antonine Wall requires some detective work and a good map, but three principal sites are readily accessible. Start with the excellent collection from the wall at the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Gilmorehill, Glasgow (Mon-Sat, 9.30-5, closed Sun, admission free). Pick up a trail leaflet and a copy of *The Antonine Wall* by Anne Robertson (Glasgow Archaeological Society, £4.50).

For the wall itself, take the A81 to Bearsden in Glasgow where, amid housing near Grange Road, are the substantial remains of a bath house that formed part of one of the wall's forts.

To see how the wall commanded a panoramic view to the north, take the A803 northeast from Glasgow and, just beyond Kirkintilloch, turn right on the B8023 for Twechar to reach the fort of Bar Hill, the highest of the wall. The line of the wall is clearly visible 60 yards to the north and there is an information board provided by Historic Scotland.

The mounds and ditches of the wall survive particularly well — up to 5ft high in places — in the region of Rough Castle, among the best-preserved of the forts. Return to the A803 from Bar Hill at Kilsyth, go about 7 miles north-east to Bonnybridge, and turn right on the B816.

If you still have an appetite for ditches, a visit to the fort at Ardnoch is rewarding. It is in the village of Braco, 12 miles north of Stirling (A9 to Greenloaning, then A822 to Braco).

But some of the finest Roman remains in Scotland are at present maddeningly out of reach. For such gems as the Traprain Treasure, silver from East Lothian, you will have to await the opening of the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh in November 1998.

Popular intellectual to succeed Odone at Catholic Herald

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who once thought she might become a nun has been appointed Editor of the *Catholic Herald*. She is likely to prove a stark contrast to her predecessor, the high-profile Christina Odone.

Deborah Jones, 48, the deputy editor of *Priests & People*, a highly rated Roman Catholic monthly journal, will take over in October from acting editor Harry Coen, a respected national newspaper journalist who did not apply for the job. Like her predecessor, Miss Jones is a single woman with no children, but there the similarities end.

Miss Odone published a novel this year, called *The Shrine*, about an Italian girl who has religious visions. Known to Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, as the "Odd One", she once said: "My God, I'd love to have sex 9,000 times a day with 6,000 people."

Miss Jones, meanwhile, is author of a seminal work on adult education, which is an

annual sellout to adults who want to convert to Catholicism. In it she writes: "Personal relationships involve a morality which is consistent with Christ-like behaviour. Really loving relationships between men and women require a high degree of generosity, constancy... For men are rarely made from promoting such qualities as these."

She warns: "The deep anxieties which many, particularly young people, have about sex makes them easy prey for those who can exploit these fears and turn them into cash... Love, for a Christian, is not a game, a contest or a chance to dominate."

Miss Jones's appointment, due to be announced officially next week, is being welcomed within the church, where bishops speak warmly of her high intellect and integrity. She is an ardent advocate of the modern church reforms introduced by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Her friends insist that she will

have no truck with traditionalists who want to turn back the clock.

Besides working for *Priests & People*, Miss Jones is in charge of Catholic adult education for the East Anglia diocese. She also works on the diocesan programme for receiving adults into the church.

Miss Jones also serves on the bishops' conference committee for theology and is co-chair of the Association of Adult Religious Educators.

She did not apply to be Editor of the *Herald* but was headhunted after her name was recommended to Otto Heschel, chairman of the independent trust that owns the newspaper. According to friends, she was thoroughly surprised by the approach and, being content with her current work, considered before taking the job.

She intends to commission articles from bishops and other church leaders on church affairs, as well as features on world affairs from informed lay men and women. She is

Bathing on beach at Paris? Ah yes, I remember it well

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ignorance of geography was claimed yesterday to have reached new heights with a poll showing that only 36 per cent could correctly identify a picture of Blackpool Tower. The rest thought it was the Eiffel Tower, despite the presence of sea and sunbathers on a beach.

The finding was made more puzzling by the fact that 54 per cent considered Paris to be Europe's most romantic city. Perhaps their visits to the French capital were too occupied with romance for them to develop a closer knowledge of the sights.

The travel company Insight International Tours announced the figures from a random sample of 500 men and women. Italy was voted the best European country for an escape holiday, with the backing of 51 per cent. Less than half knew that the leaning tower of Pisa was in Italy, but 87 per cent correctly identified the country as the original home of the pizza.

On the basic geography of Europe's rivers, 39 per cent knew that the Seine was in France. 36 per cent knew that the Rhine went through Germany and only 9 per cent could name the countries on the route of the River Danube.

When it came to politics, Tony Blair was recognised by 62 per cent of those questioned, Helmut Kohl by 21 per cent and Jacques Chirac by 17 per cent.

The number of foreign visitors to Britain has slowed perceptively over the past few months. The British Incoming Tour Operators' Association had predicted that the number of people coming to spend a holiday in this country would grow by around 9 per cent between April and June, but the actual increase proved to be no more than 4.5 per cent.

The average cost of a night in a luxury London hotel is now £212.26, producing an annual operating profit of £38,635 per room, according to the latest Horwath hotels survey. The average price of a London room was said to be £103.56, against £45.30 for the rest of England.

The signal was never detected again nor explained satisfactorily, although scientists are sure it was of intelligent origin.

Three years ago budget pressure led the United States Congress to withdraw funding from the search for alien life-forms. The SETI Institute was set up as a distinct organisation with similar aims in 1984 and is financed by private donations.

As well as being president of the SETI Institute, Professor Drake holds a chair in astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 1960 he became the first astronomer to scan the skies for extra-terrestrial signals.

Mind and Matter, page II

Appeal honours debt to Indians who served in war

BY ALAN HAMILTON

MEMORIES of last August's VJ-Day celebrations, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the Far East, have struck an unexpected chord with the British public.

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More than 2.5 million volunteers from what are now India, Pakistan and Bangladesh rallied to the Allied cause between 1941 and 1945: some 100,000 were killed or wounded and 31 won VCs, the highest number in any army. Lord Weatherill himself served for four years in the Indian Army, George V's Own Lancers, as a captain in the 19th King George V's Own Lancers.

The money is being distributed by the British Commonwealth Ex-Services' League, the London-based charity of last resort founded by Earl Haig of Bemersyde in 1921 to make emergency payments to destitute Commonwealth veterans and their dependants who are not entitled to receive British Army pensions or charity funds.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Pope, a former Royal Marine who will become the league's next secretary-general, said yesterday: "The response has been magnificent. We are wading through 400 letters of support, many of them from retired Indian Army officers now living in Britain.

"But the need is great: the Indian veterans are now very old, ill and unable to work, many are living in conditions of the greatest poverty and starvation in the slums of

Britain lends America an ear in the hunt for alien life

BY ANJANA AHUJA

BRITAIN is about to join the United States in the hunt for alien life. Scientists at Jodrell Bank, site of the country's largest radio telescope, are holding talks with the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence Institute in California, which wants to search the skies above Britain for alien radio signals.

The collaboration will widen the net in the hunt for other civilisations, which has been given added impetus by the evidence last week that primitive life may have existed on Mars.

Professor Frank Drake, president of the SETI Institute at Mountain View, near San Francisco, said: "British scientists have always been rather



years before a possible upgrade of the telescope in 1998. "We would provide the telescope and sensitive receivers, and the SETI Institute would provide the expertise to look at the signals," Professor Lyne said.

A joint project was mooted ten years ago but, because the technology was relatively basic, it was almost impossible to distinguish genuine alien signals from terrestrial noise: "Now scientists can sort the wheat from the chaff," he said.

Professor Lyne agreed that the news about Mars last

week had stirred interest in such projects: "Our reason for doing this is to further research into the universe as a whole and the question of other

civilisations is of great public interest. Now, possibly, the time is right."

Nasa first proposed the idea of comoving space for alien signals in the 1970s. The greatest hope of a break-

through came in 1977, when

mysterious signals were detected by scientists at Ohio State University. It was nicknamed the "Wow" signal after an excited researcher scribbled the exclamation on a printout.

THE signal was never detected again nor explained satisfactorily, although scientists are sure it was of intelligent origin.

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Hard-up Italy

From RICHARD

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Tory Euro jitters save duty-free from dustbin of history

If you happen to be holidaying in Europe and have a few spare seconds when stuck in a duty-free checkout queue behind a line of tanned shopaholics with overflowing wire trolleys, try asking yourself a question. Why does "duty-free" still exist?

Search me. The single market means — at the very least — abolishing tax frontiers on goods going to and from the European Union. Allowing travellers to buy tax-free perfume, whisky and tobacco in planes or the floating supermarkets otherwise known as cross-Channel ferries makes no sense at all. Fixing "allow-



remember that the officers could be spending their time rooting out real crime such as heroin smuggling.

No one disputes that duty-free is an anachronistic nonsense, not even the duty-free people themselves. "Duty and tax-free has no intrinsic logic," says the Duty-Free Confederation with brazen candour, before adding "but it works for the benefit of all."

The formidably well-founded confederation has outperformed most of its rivals in the arm-twisting stakes in Brussels by delaying the abolition of duty-free from the EU until 1999. Its lobbyists hope to push even that dead-

line away into the next century. The anti-Brussels mood inside the Tory Party helps. The European Commission confirmed last month that duty-free would disappear three years from now; to judge by the ensuing fuss, you might imagine that the mild Italian Commissioner, Mario Monti, had suggested abolishing the Union Jack, dynamiting the Houses of Parliament and putting up a statue to Jacques Delors in Trafalgar Square.

Tory MPs fulminated. "Destruction of British interests," groaned Bill Cash. "Lunatic act of bureaucracy," rumbled his colleague, Sir

Gerard Vaughan. Only the chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, John Townend, who happens to be a wine merchant, saw the point. "Phasing-out in the long term is probably a good thing," he said cautiously, "but it will be unpopular."

Even Mr Townend has forgotten that a long-term phase-out was exactly what EU ministers decided back in 1992, when duty-free should have disappeared into the dustbin of history. Back in the 1980s a Conservative British Commissioner in Brussels, Lord Cockfield, thought politicians should

face up to a little unpopularity for the sake of a principle, frontier-free trade, which Tories say they back.

Turn the pages of the 1992 edition of *The Times Guide to the Single European Market* and you will find two of my colleagues noting: "Everyone involved in the duty-free industry accepts that abolition is merely a question of time."

Airport and ferry shops were adapting. Dublin airport was even then selling more black silk lingerie than most department stores in the city because the retailers had spotted that the men who bought it for wives and girl-

friends spent a lot of time in airports but practically none in city centre underwear shops.

Duty-free began as a perk for sailors, allowed to buy cheap drink and tobacco to alleviate long, rough journeys. Around 200 years later, the UK industry sells £1 billion of goods a year and says almost three-quarters of that would be lost if the EU ended the system. The tax break given by the Government puts sales revenue in the pockets of airports: 40 per cent of all pre-tax profits in places such as Birmingham and Newcastle. So the Government is cross-subsidising

the airport industry. But it could more logically give a tax break to help the turnover of shops in depressed areas such as Liverpool or the Isle of Wight. Airlines have been begging government for years to make arrangements which don't force them to fly heavy cargoes of flammable and unnecessary duty-free alcohol in passenger jets.

The survival of the duty-free industry is a testimony to the Government's terror of all debate about Europe — and holds it hostage to an industry so delicate that it couldn't read the writing on the wall.

GEORGE BROCK

Lebed seeks truce as thousands flee carnage in Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Kremlin's security chief and newly appointed troubleshooter on Chechnya, flew to the Caucasus yesterday on a mission to end the worst fighting in Grozny in more than a year.

As fierce battles raged for a sixth day between thousands of separatist rebels and heavily reinforced Russian troops for control of the Chechen capital, there were concerns that the breakaway republic was on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe unless a ceasefire could be imposed.

Thousands of refugees from Grozny, many clutching white flags, poured out of the city, braving sniper fire and renewed heavy artillery barrages in an effort to reach safety and search for desperately needed food, water and medical supplies.

In the shattered Chechen capital repeated attempts by Russian forces to flush out the insurgents appeared to have made little headway, as casualty figures for the Russians climbed to as many as 200 dead and 800 injured.

During fighting yesterday the rebels claimed to have wiped out a column of Russian armour just outside the city, killing 150 soldiers. Witnesses

said the capital could not confirm the claim, but they did report that heavy street fighting was under way and that the rebels appeared to be digging in for a prolonged action. One report said that the Chechens had a free hand through large parts of Grozny and were even using captured Russian soldiers to build trenches and other defences.

Some military experts believe that the Russians are virtually in the same position as in January 1995, when they launched a month-long siege to force the rebels out of Grozny, an operation which left thousands dead and destroyed most of the city.

Reports from the region contrasted sharply with the official version of events in Moscow, where General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, told parliament on Saturday that "the situation was difficult" but that "the initiative has passed to the federal forces".

The military's latest act of incompetence prompted President Yeltsin to give a warning of disciplinary actions being taken against those in the security forces responsible for "gross miscalculations".

The remark was a reference

to the dismal performance of Russian forces on the ground, who were taken by surprise in last week's rebel offensive, even though the assault had been widely expected to coincide with the Russian leader's inauguration on Friday.

Mr Yeltsin, who postponed his holiday to hold crisis meetings yesterday with top aides, first acted against Oleg Lobov, a long-time confidant. He was replaced as the Kremlin's representative on Chechnya by General Lebed, the gruff former paratrooper who has long advocated a peaceful settlement with the Chechens.

His mission appeared to get off to a good start since he won the backing of the Chechen rebel leadership and, possibly more importantly, the support of key figures in Moscow.

Over the weekend, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was confirmed as Prime Minister by the Duma, the lower house of parliament, said the former paratrooper was the only man for the job. "Lebed is a military man, he is used to tackling these sorts of problems," Mr Chernomyrdin said. "I am sure that he will cope with the task. He simply must do this."

Movladi Udugov, the Chechen separatist spokesman, was less enthusiastic, but said that the rebels would give him the benefit of the doubt. "If General Lebed fulfills his electoral promises, then we can only welcome him," he said. "We will do all we can so Russian state interests are preserved in the Caucasus and Chechnya and Russia get out of this war while saving face."

Although in principle both sides would like to reactivate the Nazran agreement signed in June, which calls for a ceasefire and the gradual demilitarisation of the republic, the deal was easier said than done.

On his way down to neighbouring Dagestan yesterday, General Lebed must have known that by travelling to the scene of the fire he is taking

upon himself a dangerous mission. As several ministers, military commanders and top diplomats have already learnt to their cost, getting into Chechnya is much easier said than done.

□ **Dublin:** The European Union has expressed serious concern at the situation in Chechnya and appealed to the Russian Army and separatist rebels to cease fire immediately.

□ **Ireland:** The Irish Government, current holders of the EU presidency, said the Union "deplores in particular, the ensuing civilian casualties and the suffering that a continuation of the violence is causing to the Chechen people." It also called for measures to ensure the safety of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe assistance group in Chechnya. (Reuters)

A Chechen fighter dashes between stalls at the central market in Grozny, where renewed fighting has raged for six days

Fatal Spanish campsite 'flouted building rules'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BIESCAS

THE Spanish campsite in which 85 people were killed in a flash flood last week was illegally built, a newspaper has claimed.

El Mundo said yesterday that Camping Las Nieves, near Biescas in northern Spain, was situated in a place forbidden by law. A regional law prohibits the establishment of campsites in "dry beds of streams and rivers, or in any area susceptible to flooding". Camping Las Nieves was in the middle of the dry bed of the Aras stream, which overflowed last Wednesday washing people, tents, caravans and cars into the nearby Gállego river. Forty people are still unaccounted for.

The Green Party has called for the regional Aragón authorities to be prosecuted for negligence, as well as for legal action to be taken against the local water board, which owns

the freehold on the land where the campsite was built.

Under intense pressure from the press, Margarita Mariscal de Gante, the Minister for Justice, announced yesterday that the chief magistrate of Huesca, the province in which the campsite was situated, chose not to revoke the licence of Camping Las Nieves, built in 1988.

Rafael Zapatero, the councillor for tourism of the regional administration, has sought to defend the siting by saying that "a flood of this intensity could happen in the area only once every 1,000 years, at most". However, in 1940 there was a flood of similar proportions in exactly the same place, in which a bus was washed away.

Other evidence is beginning to emerge, which could help survivors or relatives of the dead who wish to sue the regional government. The Aragon High Court had in 1989 ordered a halt to the building of a campsite nearby, as it was deemed to be in an area of "high risk". In spite of that decision, the regional officials chose not to revoke the licence of Camping Las Nieves, built in 1988.

When the proprietor of Camping Las Nieves submitted his application for a licence in 1986, a geologist said that the site was unsuitable and recommended refusal, but his report was ignored by the regional authorities.

The fatal piece of negligence

would appear to be the failure by the regional authorities on Wednesday to alert the town council of Biescas, which oversees the campsite, of the firm warning it had received from the meteorological office of "storms and extremely heavy downpours" in that precise area.

Diet puts extra life into Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese are outliving the rest of the world largely due to a diet heavy in fish, seaweed and soybean curd, supplemented by Western food.

The Health and Welfare Ministry reported that last year's life expectancy for Japanese women was 82.84 years, and for men was 76.36. The women took top place in the longevity charts for the eleventh consecutive year, and the men for a tenth year running.

In longevity for women, Sweden came second at 81.38 years, followed by Hong Kong's 81.16 years. Sweden was also second in the men's league at 76.08 years and Hong Kong third at 75.84 years. Britain and the US were well outstripped by Japan.

Hard-up Italians holiday at home

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS MILLIONS of Italians yesterday began the annual exodus to the coast, police stepped up their hunt for the "Unabomber of the beaches", who has planted crude homemade pipe bombs inside sunbather umbrellas at Adriatic resorts near Trieste.

The bombs have come at a bad time for the Italian tourist industry, facing profits well down on last year. Hoteliers are cutting prices to entice visitors to seaside and mountain resorts. Economic belt-tightening is leading to changing holiday patterns, with many Italians opting for summer in the city, enjoying traffic-free streets and rediscovering Italy's wealth of art treasures.

The Adriatic incidents are confined to a small area, and one of the bombs, at Bibione, failed to go off. But another exploded last week at Lignano, seriously injuring a sunbather. The Mayor of Lignano, Stefano Trabaldo, assured holidaymakers that



Pipe bombs and less money mean emptier beaches

his "golden sands" resort was "not Atlanta", a reference to the much larger pipe bomb that exploded during the Olympic Games.

An estimated 15 million cars clogged the roads out of Italy's major cities yesterday as families marked the start of Ferragosto, the traditional mid-August break. But tourist authorities reported that bookings in many hotels and campsites were 20 to 30 per cent down on last year.

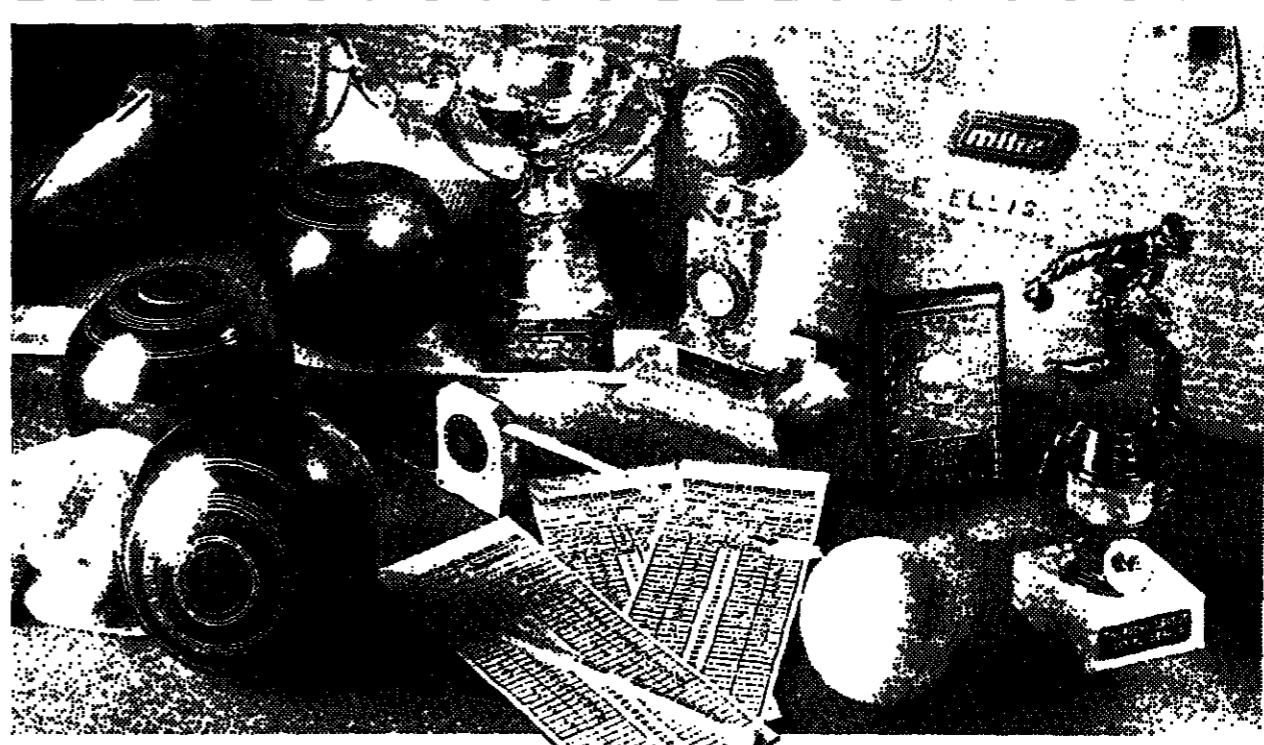
Utility companies confirmed domestic use of elec-

tricity, gas and water in urban areas was much higher than usual as people stayed put despite the heat. Some shops and restaurants which normally close, turning Rome and Milan into ghost towns, have stayed open.

The "Adriatic Unabomber" has certainly not helped. Newspapers yesterday carried pictures of police searching under beach deckchairs with metal detectors. One police theory is that the "mad umbrella dynamiter" has yet to take hold.

Media reports that excessive sunbathing can lead to cancer and infertility are also having an effect, as are reports that seawater quality at many of Italy's popular Mediterranean and Adriatic resorts fall below European Union environmental standards.

Il Messaggero yesterday predicted one positive side-effect of the changing pattern. Normally, it said, "when city dwellers go away to relax, the burglars get to work".



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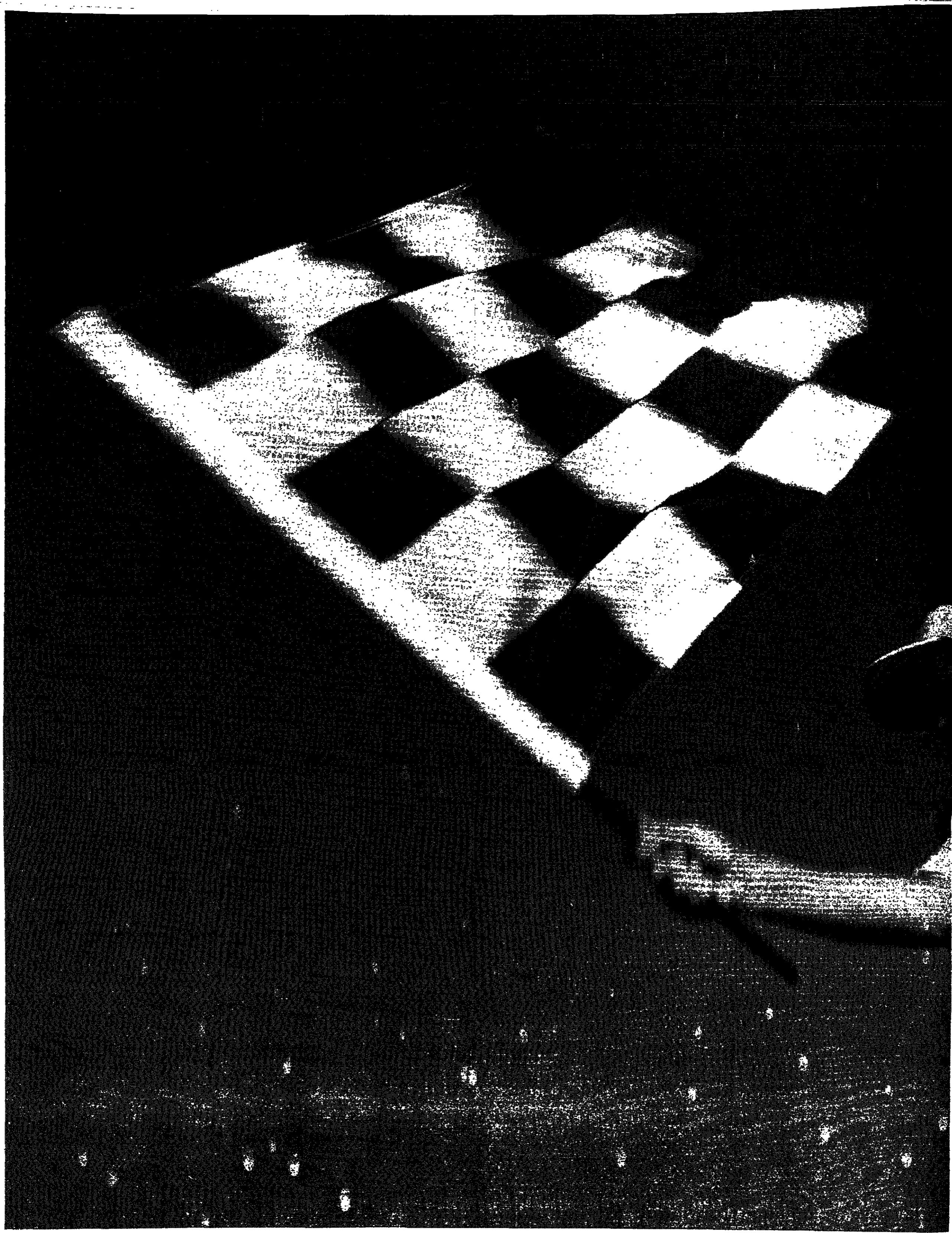
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Shearer up
Canto

Manchester United
Newcastle United

By Alan Shearer

Football Correspondent

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

SECOND BEST FOR HILL

Villeneuve closes gap in world motor racing championship
Oliver Holt, PAGE 23

PLUS: US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Full report and details, PAGE 22

CIGAR SMOKED

The wonder horse runs out of puff at last
PAGE 32

STOPPING THE ROT

England excel at Headingley
PAGE 25

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 12 1996



Beckham receives a congratulatory hug from Cruyff after scoring the third of Manchester United's four Wembley goals against Newcastle United yesterday. Photographs: Julian Herbert

Shearer upstaged as Double-winners claim Charity Shield

Cantona steals the thunder

Manchester United 4

Newcastle United 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IF ALAN SHEARER is the most costly individual to walk the turf of legends, Eric Cantona demonstrated at Wembley yesterday afternoon that he remains the most precious. For, while Shearer pined for the ball that seldom came, while Manchester United outpaced, outplayed and outwitted the pretenders from the North East, it was Cantona — one-fifteenth the cost of the £15 million Shearer — who inspired and led the Double-winners to such an emphatic victory in the FA Charity Shield.

One is tempted to say that here was an ordinary man, elevated by birthright and by his goals among Englishmen, competing against one who is extraordinary, who is French, and who reached yet again the extremes of wonderful touch and vision. Cantona might also have been sent off when his infamous temper erupted in the second half, but he received merely a yellow card for a physical assault on Philippe Albert that prefaced the turn from sunshine to a glowing late thunderstorm.

But how Manchester United proved their worth. It was not all about Shearer, and never could be. There is no point in possessing an idol, indeed in having £16.25 million of spare talents on the bench, if you are not a team, and from the start, as Newcastle groped for a pat-

tern, the other United were first into their stride, first to flow. They commanded midfield through Keane and Pallister, then the back, May and Pallister stretched stride for stride with Shearer and Ferdinand.

And then there was Mr Irresistible: Cantona, a pariah at the beginning of last season, this time raising the curtain on the English season by shaking hands with Keith Wiesman and introducing the new Football Association chairman to his colleagues.

Early on there was potency from Newcastle's £21 million spearhead: Ferdinand, in particular, bristled with powerful determination and, in the eighth minute, a delicate flick would have opened up the

Manchester defence, but Shearer was not yet on that wavelength. He read the invitation rather too late, and red shirts closed the door. It was scarcely to open again. In the 24th minute, Giggs, with wonderful insight, passed the ball between Newcastle's cumbersome centre backs for Cantona. Srnicek came out to deflect the ball with his legs.

Cantona was denied for 30 seconds. Like the Pimpemel he reappeared unseen on the other side of the penalty box and this time, prompted by Beckham, he controlled the ball at a touch, waited, and then coolly passed the ball beyond the stranded goalkeeper.

Cantona was involved again, as was Beckham, in a second goal four minutes later. The move swept half the length of the field as the ball flowed from Keane to Giggs and then to Cantona. He, audaciously, backheeled it to Beckham, whose control on

the chest was polished and whose right foot then struck the ball across the face of goal for Butt, unmarked, to score with a flying header.

It was clear that, far from handing any of the serious silverware to their most ambi-

tious opponents, Manchester United did not even have the charity to allow Newcastle to dream seriously of taking home this shield.

For Shearer, growing more forlorn by the minute, it may have dawned that he had chosen wrong when he rejected Old Trafford in favour of St James' Park. Defiantly, he was to say that Newcastle would be all right, his implication being that they had lost the rehearsal but that the real season begins at Everton next Saturday. True enough, but all the euphoria of his chosen homecoming was to be further undermined when Manchester United came late with two cruel goals.

Before that, especially when

Asprilla injected some brilliant if unorthodox individual flair to Newcastle, there had been fractious interchanges. Not the least of these blackened Cantona's afternoon. In the 65th minute, Gary Neville had fouled Albert, and when they squared up, Cantona ran 15 yards to shake Albert by the back of the neck. Pandemonium. The Geordies were baying and even Cantona went red around the gills. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, feared the worst, but the referee, Paul Durkin, abdicated responsibility, flourished the yellow card, and allowed Cantona to remain as man of the match.

Five minutes from the end, Newcastle also abdicated the art of defence. They stood four square when Beckham was allowed to bear down on Srnicek and lift the ball artfully over the goalkeeper. Three minutes later, Poborsky, the frisky Czech Republic winger, was fouled by Albert. Giggs placed the free kick superbly for Keane, and the Irishman's thunderbolt under darkening skies was too fierce for Srnicek to hold.

It was that emphatic. Ferguson was able to say how well he had shopped around looking for summer bargains, and Newcastle retreated, wounded, to their mounted haven in the North East.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel — D. Ince (sub: G. Neville, 48min), D. May, G. Pallister, D. Venables — N. Butt (sub: K. Doherty, 41), P. Giggs — E. Cantona — P. Scholz (sub: J. Cruyff, 65). NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Srnicek — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Bestford (sub: P. Durkin, 75), D. Bailey — R. Lee, D. Simola (sub: K. P. Johnson, 77) — A. Shearer, F. Ferdinand. Referee: P. Durkin.



Shearer, Newcastle's £15 million man, is brought to earth as Cantona, right, scores the opening goal



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Boycott pitches his expertise on a perfect length

There is an immutable law of sport — let us call it the Underdog Factor — that finds particular expression in baseball. It concerns the intentional walk, a play that is used by the pitching team to get rid of a potentially dangerous batter at a critical moment in the game. The pitcher will pitch four balls wide of the strike zone, the batter will walk safely to first base and the new batter, statistically much weaker, will come to the plate and, according to all the numbers, fail.

But you and I know what happens next. Player B, the underdog, defies the odds and plants the ball into the tenth row of the bleachers to win the game. The losing

coach cannot figure it out. He looks at his statistics, satisfies himself he did the right thing and retires to mastermind tomorrow's victory. Nowhere in his equations does it mention the Underdog Factor.

I tell you this partly because there was a trace or two of the Underdog Factor at Headingley over the weekend and partly to demonstrate my growing understanding of the absurdly complex sport of baseball. I have figured it all out for myself, with no help from American commentators, whose viewers have been weaned on double plays, sliders, curve balls and all the other impenetrable paraphernalia of baseball. Visiting English

journalists do not register on the scale, but what about children, or those who have unaccountably missed out on their baseball education?

I tried to watch the BBC's coverage of the second Test through the eyes of my American counterpart, someone with a broad understanding of the principles of the game but a hazy grasp of detail; a child's eye view, if you like. It is a difficult role to play, even more difficult for the producers to satisfy. Where do you pitch your coverage? Make it too simple and the educated watcher is insulted and switches off; presume too much and you risk losing the next generation of cricket lovers. Clearly, some presumptions have to be made.

It would be a waste to ask Geoff Boycott to explain the different field positions, but with his little white pen he can explain why he thinks square cover should be brought up to gully when Atherton is batting against Waqar Younis. Boycott squiggles with his marker and I am wiser. I now know, for a start, where square cover and gully are. And I might pick up that one of Michael Atherton's favourite

strokes is the square drive, that occasionally goes in the air through gully (roughly the area of first base). One more drip of understanding in my American journalist's basin of ignorance.

It has taken time for television to work out its role as an educational sporting medium. For too long, commentary was a matter of explanation, expertise and, in the days of Tom Graveney and Bob Willis, too often a

matter of stating the obvious. "Another fine shot, there..." was Uncle Tom's trademark quote. Technological advances in camerawork, including the "spin-cam" that allows you to see the seam rotating on the ball, draw the viewer into the game and encourage more imaginative use of its natural pauses. There is much more thought going on behind the camera, too.

Breaks in play are now filled with mini-features that might highlight a particular phase of play or slice of tactical thinking. On Saturday evening, when Nick Knight was facing Waqar, we were shown a split screen shot of Knight's twin legs before dismissals by the same

bowler at Lord's. Neither one looked out to me, but both batsman and bowler were alive to the memories. Ah, said my American viewer, so that is what he is trying to do. A big game is shaped by simple context, a broad plain narrowed to a village green.

Richie Benaud has been teaching this sort of stuff for years, but more in the style of a radio commentator. Now he has illustrations. Boycott has become less didactic, less prone to the brusht "this is the way we do it in Yorkshire, so there" type of summary. His bluntness still contrasts with the insouciant elegance of David Gower, and even more so with the studied chumminess of *Test Match Special*. But he no longer

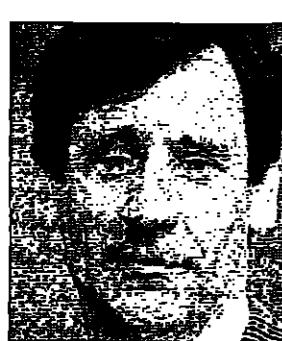
beats the viewer over the head with his opinions.

With such a well-matched quartet — Lewis, Benaud, Gower and Boycott — no longer is it necessary for the sound on the television to be turned down in favour of *TMS*. Television is starting to explore its limits, to enrich and educate as well as excite. *TMS* has its moments, though, usually when Jonathan Agnew winds up Fred Trueman. "So Fred, how would you compare Bradman and Boycott?" he asked innocently one afternoon. "If Boycott were on the pavement, Bradman would be on the top of St Paul's Cathedral." "Ouch. Now, how do you explain that to my American friend?"

GOLF: MASTERS CHAMPION HIGHLIGHTS THE CAUSE OF HIS FOURTH-ROUND FAILURE IN KENTUCKY

Dejected Faldo swings out of control

JOHN HOPKINS



At the US PGA Championship

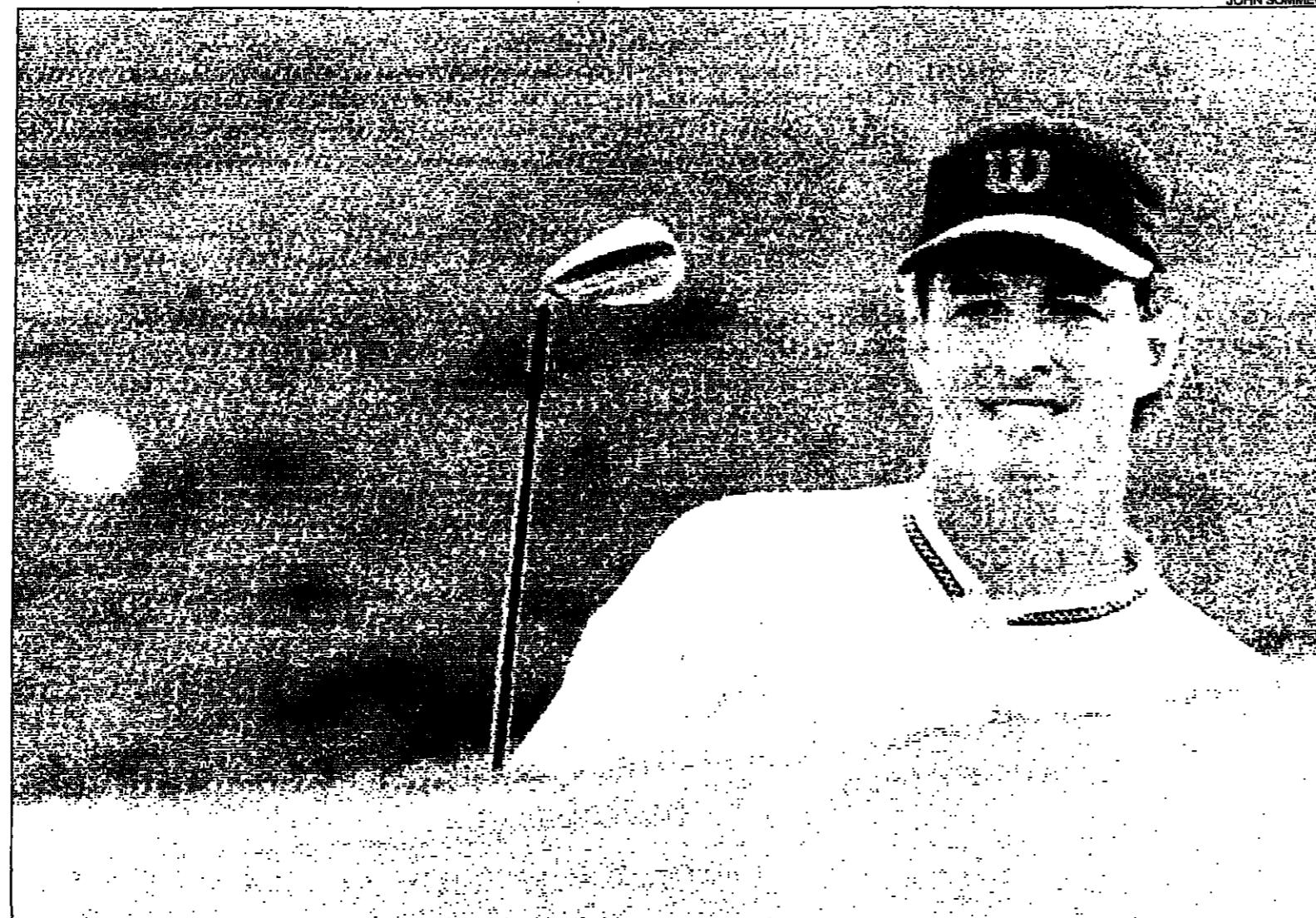
A SEASON in which he won one major championship, threatened in another but played poorly in the other two can hardly be described as unsuccessful, yet Nick Faldo was less than happy with the form he had shown in major championships when he concluded his fourth round in the US PGA Championship here. Faldo's 73 was his second best of the week.

It was put into perspective by the fact that Faldo had finished his fourth round before the leaders had begun theirs. Russ Cochran, one of two left-handers, was leading the field. After 54 holes he was 11 under par, two strokes ahead of Mark Brooks and Vijay Singh and three ahead of Steve Elkington, the defending champion. Nick Price and Phil Mickelson, A 66 in the third round, enabled Jesper Parnevik to move to seven under par, two strokes ahead of Per Ulfrik Johansson, his compatriot, whose 66 equalled the old course record. Cochran set a new record with a 65 in his third round.

"I think that nine under par will win," Faldo said, whose four-round total of 291 was three over par, said. "This is a good course that played tough. It certainly beat me. I have a lot of work to do. I really struggled with my swing and my putting. From the fourth hole on the second day I was ten strokes back and after that I was pressing. When you try and make things happen they don't. My swing has been off."

Aggression had been Faldo's watchword all week but for one who is not naturally inclined to that form of play it takes some learning. "I was trying to speed up my putting," he said. "I would take one look at the target and get on with it. The first thought is usually the correct one."

Memories of the thrilling victory in the Masters remained clear in Faldo's mind as he began what could be



Cochran, the tournament leader after three rounds, clears his ball from a deep bunker on the 18th hole at the Valhalla course in Louisville

McGinley collects first victory

PAUL McGINLEY, of Ireland, produced a splendid last round of 62 to win the Hohe Brucke Austrian Open in Litschau yesterday and gain his first success on the PGA European Tour.

McGinley was eight shots behind the overnight leader, Juan Carlos Piñero, of Spain, when he began the day but he scored 11 birdies to finish on 269, 19 under par, to beat Piñero and David Lynn, of Trentham, by one shot.

McGinley, who won £41,000, had finished

described as the last third of the season. The January to April stretch is the first third, concluding with the Masters. The second third comprises the US Open, Open and US PGA, the last two of which fall too close together.

This year, there were only two clear weeks between the final strokes at Lytham and the opening strokes at Valhalla. From mid-August to November is the final segment of the season, including events in Japan, the Dunhill Cup and World Matchplay in Europe.

"I started off great this year," Faldo said "but I did not play well in the US Open and although I had chances in the Open I did not take them and I did not play well here."

He flew to Denver, Colorado, last night for some trout fishing and to compete in a tournament later in the week and will play in the World Series. His only appearance in Europe for the rest of the year will be at the Lancome Trophy in Paris next month, missing the World Matchplay tournament.

Faldo's relentless consistency in major championships set

McGinley's failure in the past two in stark contrast. McGinley has missed more cuts in major championships in one month than Faldo has in 12 years — McGinley's failure to reach the fourth rounds at Lytham and now here, equaling Faldo's failure in the 1994 US Open and the 1984 US PGA.

After two such performances McGinley is about to be toppled from his position as second in the world rankings. He must be a worried man. It will be interesting to see how he reacts to this loss of form. In his relatively short

professional career — he turned professional in 1987 — he has never experienced anything like it before. Will he face it with fortitude and forbearance or impatience and petulance?

If these are difficult days for McGinley, they are no less so for Ernie Els, of South Africa, and his thoughts can only marginally be more calm than McGinley's. Els, the 1994 US Open champion, has missed some golden opportunities to win major championships recently.

He opened up a three-stroke lead in the third round of the US PGA last year, only to

throw it away with a fourth round of 72, one over par. Then he was even more culpable when a couple of wild tee shots near the end of his fourth round at Lytham last month cost him any chance in the Open.

On Saturday, Els had a nightmare, an eight-over-par 44 on his outward half that included a four-over-par eight and a two-over-par seven on consecutive holes. To play the next eleven in level par at a time when his mind must have been racing probably represented a triumph for Els.

A 69 yesterday added a measure of respectability.

THIRD-ROUND SCORES

United States unless stated

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487

MOTOR RACING: ENGLISHMAN'S POOR START GIVES VILLENEUVE THE CHANCE OF A THRILLING FINISH TO THE SEASON

Hill struggles to unpick championship gridlock

DAMON HILL turned the Hungarian Grand Prix into a 77-lap act of atonement here yesterday but it would not forgive him his original sin. In vain, he pushed himself to the limits to try to wipe out the advantage he had handed to Jacques Villeneuve at the start, and in the heat and the dust of the Hungaroring the young Canadian dragged the destiny of the world drivers' championship back into the melting pot.

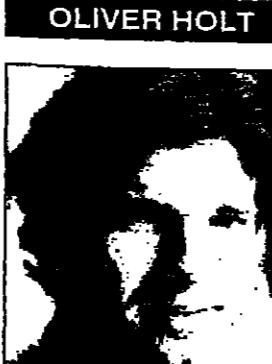
Villeneuve's victory and Hill's fighting second place clinched the constructors' championship for Williams in the most emphatic way but it reduced the Englishman's lead over his team-mate in the race for the drivers' title to 17 points, with four races remaining. The rest are out of the running: there are just the two of them now.

Hill remains the strong favourite, of course, not least because he hurried away from the circuit, heading for a promotional trip to Bulgaria, rightly refusing to be downcast by a gritty, unrelenting performance that lacked for nothing save his speed off the starting grid. "I hate losing in any circumstances," he said, "but if I could ever be satisfied with second place, it is probably today."

Yesterday's result, though, adds a tantalising air of unpredictability to the remaining quarter of a season that had once seemed likely to provide only a prolonged coronation party for Hill. He can no longer wrap the championship up at Spa, Belgium, in a fortnight and it now seems likely the struggle will last at least to the penultimate race in Estoril, Portugal.

"If I had to choose," Patrick Head, the technical director at Williams, said, "I would rather be in the position of the man who has the 17-point lead. But if Jacques wins at Spa and says Damon has a mechanical problem, it would be down to seven points and that is nothing. Jacques has raised his game in the last few races and he is now in the same area of performance as Damon."

The race here was won and lost in the first few seconds as Hill made his third consecutive poor start and was engulfed by a stream of snarling



At the Hungarian Grand Prix

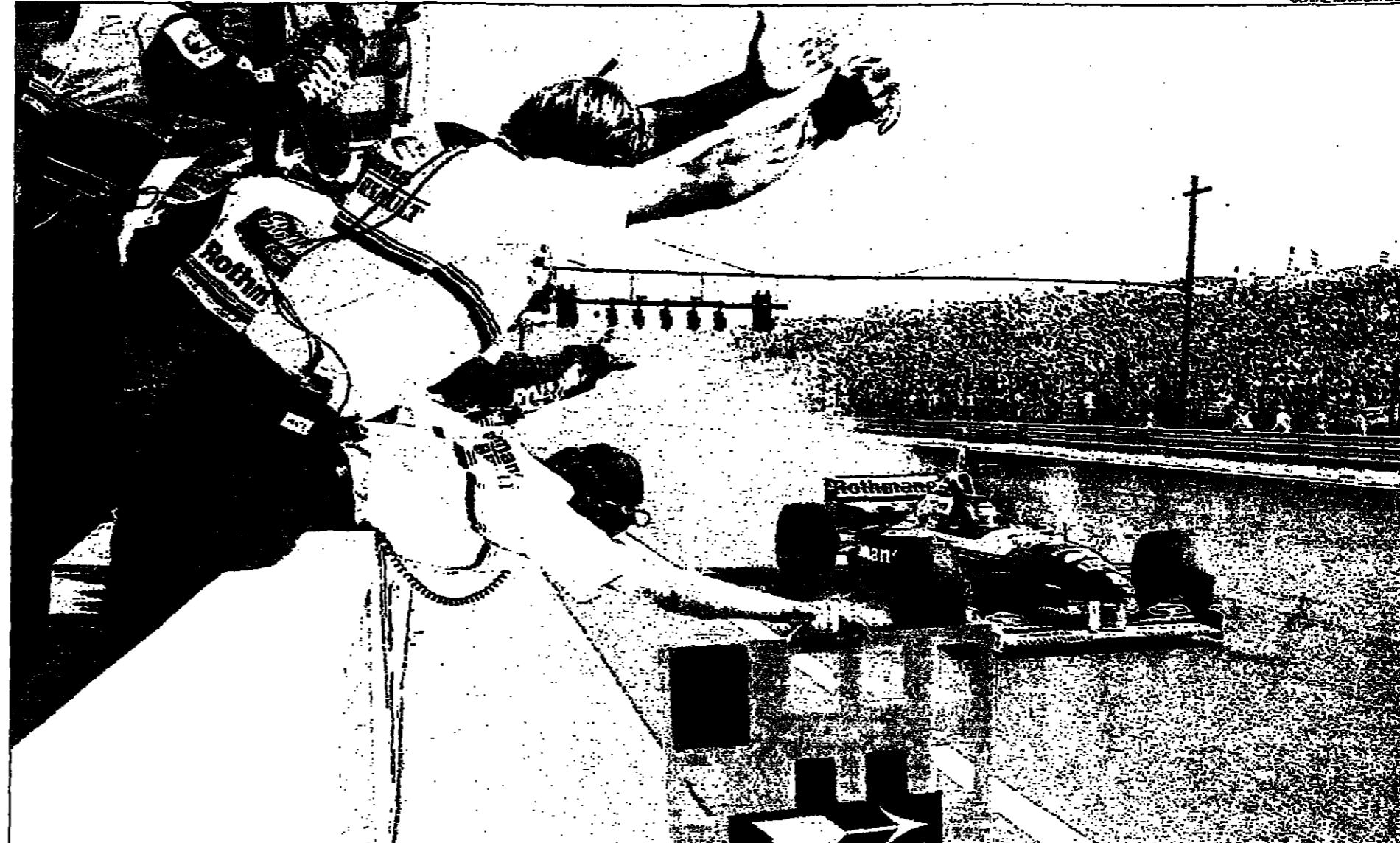
rivals. The Ferrari of Michael Schumacher pulled safely away from pole position but Hill, starting alongside him on the front row, was overtaken by Villeneuve and the Benetton-Renault of Jean Alesi before the dip down and to the right at the end of the pit straight.

As Schumacher and Villeneuve tore off into the distance, Hill was stuck behind the slower car of Alesi. By the time Villeneuve made his first pit stop after 21 laps, overtaking Schumacher in the process, he had roared to a 20sec lead over his team-mate. Hill made his own stop four laps later and emerged in fourth place, behind Alesi once more.

He refused to give up, though, and confounded the critics who accuse him of not being the lead, by forcing Alesi into a mistake on the 31st lap and overtaking him on a track where it is notoriously difficult to pass. From then on he was clearly the fastest driver on the circuit, cutting huge chunks out of the times of the leading drivers.

Villeneuve, though, never gave him any real hope of victory. He did what he had to do, driving within himself until Hill reached him in the last ten laps of the race. By then Schumacher had been forced to retire with a throttle problem while running third and the two Williams drivers fought for victory right to the chequered flag.

When Villeneuve made his third and final stop, a wheel-



Villeneuve punches the air in celebration as he passes members of the Williams team in the pits after completing his victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday

nut cross-threaded and it seemed for a few seconds that he might be delayed long enough for Hill to hurtle past. The problem was solved just in time, however, and Villeneuve darted out in front. From then onwards, Hill's only hope was a mistake from the Canadian. Villeneuve never made it.

Much of the post-race interest centred on the start and the respective merits of hand-held clutches, as used by Villeneuve, and foot-operated ones of the type used by Hill. "The way the clutch works does not suit me," Hill said. "I

am working very hard to get Williams to provide me with one I can use.

"I was disgusted with my start. I have lost count of the number of times the start has cost me places on the first lap but it has got to be fixed. I lost the race in the first ten laps. It was just over. I was doing all I could but by the time I eventually got past Jean, Jacques and Michael were long gone.

"When I came out after the first pit stop, I just could not believe it when Jean went past again as I was on the exit road. My heart sank. I thought,

"Crikey, not another 25 laps behind Alesi," but fortunately he went wide and I slipped past him. The last few races are going to be thrilling for the viewers now, but tough for Jacques and I."

It was Villeneuve's third win of the season and perhaps his most impressive, given that he was not expected to be competitive on a circuit he had never driven on before and that is harder than most to learn. He was delighted by his victory but his eyes are on the bigger prize.

"We had a comfortable lead in the constructors' champion-

ship anyway," he said. "But now it is decided. Damon and I can really fight it out. I was not really pushing for much of the race, but when Damon got close I started to push."

If the drivers' championship is still in the balance, though, Williams ended the hopes of their rivals in the unequal struggle for the constructors' title, equaling Ferrari's record of eight championships. They now lead Benetton by 90 points.

"It's a brilliant team effort and I'm thrilled to bits about it," Frank Williams, the team owner, said.

DETAILS FROM BUDAPEST

RESULT (77laps, 305.536km): 1. J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 46min 21.134sec (av speed 172.372kph); 2. D. Hill (Eng, Williams) at 0.7sec; 3. J. Alesi (Ita, Benetton) 24.212sec; 4. M. Schumacher (Ger, McLaren) 24.212sec; 5. O. Panis (Fr, Ligier) 6. R. Barrichello (Br, Jordan) 7. U. Katayama (Japen, Tyrrell) 8. R. Rosset (Br, Footwork) 9. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 7. 10. J. Lehto (Fin, McLaren) 8. Did not finish: 11. G. Beretta (Ita, Benetton) 94 laps completed; 12. H. Herbert (Ger, Sauber) 50; 13. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber) 35; 14. E. Irvine (GB, Farnsi) 31; 15. P. Larini (Por, Minardi) 24; 16. D. Coulthard (GB, Williams) 23; 17. M. Verstappen (Ned, Footwork) 10; 18. M. Brundle (GB, Jordan) 5; 19. P. Diniz (Br, Ligier) 1. Did not start (failed to finish first lap): 20. M. Salo (Fin, Tyrrell) 1hr 20.093 (178.532kph).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Hill 51; 2. Villeneuve 62; 3. Alesi 35; 4. Schumacher 29; 5. Hakkinen 19; 6. Barrichello 18; 7. Berger 15; 8. Irvine 13; 9. Beretta 12; 10. Larini 9; 11. Frenzen 6; 12. Salo 5; 13. Herbert 4; 14. Brundle 3; equal 15. Verstappen and Druy 1. Constructors: 1. Williams 141; 2. Benetton 51; 3. Farnsi 38; 4. McLaren 37; 5. Jordan 15; 6. Ligier 14; 7. Sauber 10; 8. Tyrrell 5; 9. Footwork 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Aug 22: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps; Sept 5: Italian, Monza; Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril; Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.

MOTORSPORT

Biela puts himself on course for title

By MARK FOGARTY

FRANK BIELA, the World Cup champion, finally conceded yesterday that the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship is his for the taking after scoring his seventh victory of the series at Oulton Park.

Biela, of Germany, won the twentieth round of the 26-race series from pole position in his four-wheel drive Audi A4 after finishing a close second in the nineteenth round, extending his overall lead in the championship to an effectively unassailable 80 points.

He needs just one more win to clinch the title. "For the first time I agree that the championship is safe," Biela said. "The next two races at Thruxton on August 26 are still important, but I'd like to win the championship there so that I can really try hard in the final two meetings of the series."

Biela's nearest rival for the title, Rickard Rydell, of Sweden, fell out of all but mathematical contention by following a distant fifth in the first race yesterday with an untimely retirement from the second, caused by his Volvo 850 suffering a front suspension breakage after colliding with the Vauxhall Vectra of John Cleland.

Rydell's failure to add significantly to his points tally places him in danger of being overtaken for second place in the championship by Alain Menu, who narrowly beat Biela in the first race in his Renault Laguna and was third in the second.

Trailing Rydell by just two points, Menu, of Switzerland, has revived his chances of finishing runner-up for the third year in a row.

Biela, contesting the championship for the first time, has never been headed since winning the opening two races at Donington Park four months ago. He has continued to build on his early advantage despite the Audi in the field, receiving an additional 30 kilogramme weight handicap after winning five of the first eight races.

RUGBY LEAGUE: EMPHATIC VICTORY AGAINST LOWLY PARIS PUTS TITLE WITHIN TOUCHING DISTANCE

St Helens close in on their pot of gold

Paris Saint-Germain 12

St Helens 92

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A RAINBOW stretched across the Charley Stadium on a brooding, wet Parisian night. Beneath it, St Helens edged closer to their pot of gold by a display of model thoroughness, discipline and professionalism. They now have the Stones Super League title firmly in their sights and nothing, not even cussed opposition and cursed conditions, were going to deflect them on Saturday.

Another noteworthy sporting feat of 1996 was St Helens' last championship and Challenge Cup double. Few would now wager against it being realised again. Consistency, a quality not always apparent in St Helens sides of the previous 30 years, is the main reason they are edging Wigan.

His players gave a good account of themselves, but John Kear, the Paris coach, accurately summed up the difference by a description of St Helens' performance as "un-St Helens". "The pitch was saturated, but they adapted immediately, controlled the ball, and defended superbly," Kear said. "We asked the questions, but they answered the lot. There aren't the silly errors any more, nor extravagance for extravagance sake. They are totally one-eyed in terms of the championship, and I think they're there."

The St Helens boat is not quite in yet. Wigan could have a say, provided they overcome London Broncos on Saturday

and St Helens self-destruct against Sheffield Eagles 24 hours later. However, St Helens have survived their most stern tests and, correctly, are adopting a heads-down policy. By maintaining their unbeaten home record in their final two games, they will become champions.

Should the Broncos go one better than their draw at Wigan in June, and the crowning ceremony is at Knowsley Road on Sunday, Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, would happily settle for an earlier conclusion. No side has had it harder than St Helens.

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Strength in depth was Wigan's secret and St Helens, seemingly, have realised its importance. Hayes, Hunt, Sullivan and Martyn, who have all had severely interrupted seasons, were woven seamlessly into the pattern in Paris. Haigh filled in for Newlove at centre with youthful authority, while the campaign stalwarts, Goulding, Cunningham, Hammond and

Perelini, made their familiar, stout-hearted contributions.

Importantly, there is the personnel to see St Helens home, plus the will.

McRae has had his critics about the defence being as vulnerable as it was before he arrived last January, but the Australian has added a mental toughness. Luck, inevitably, has played its part, but the team have got out of too many tight spots for them all to be down to good fortune.

The determination is embodied in Keiron Cunningham, even though the teenage hooker has requested a trans-

ANDREW VARLEY



Hunt outpaces the Paris Saint-Germain defence to score the first try for St Helens

Salford celebrate promotion by signing Platt

Salford Reds 21

Keighley Cougars 5

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SALFORD enjoyed the upset of the season when they ended Wigan's eight-year winning run in the Challenge Cup. Yesterday, the club savoured a more tangible reward — the first division championship, and promotion next season to the Super League.

Keighley gave the home side, now unbeaten in 12 outings, one of their more

competitive matches. It has been a procession since June, and following their victory in the meaningless Centenary championship last season, to place their hands on the trophy a second time in eight months and get their place among the elite was justice.

In preparation, Salford are already strengthening the side, with the acquisition from Auckland Warriors of Andy Platt. The former Great Britain prop is the first of several expected additions, although Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, already possesses a

strong mix of young and experienced talents. To win the first division in successive seasons is a tremendous achievement, but now we've got to ensure we make an impression on the Super League," Gregory said.

The top flight will provide far more onerous tests, but there is no denying Salford's spirit. For Keighley and Hull, who also want to be "fast-tracked" in like South Wales, the battle is on for second place, in the hope that it might qualify them for a second promotion spot.

Salford are there by dint of hard work on the field. They are unbeaten in 16 league matches at home since Keighley won at the Willows 11 months ago. The Cougars might have threatened a repeat, had they not found new ways of fluffing tries. Not that Salford were going to have their big day ruined.

Rogers scored the first of four tries after excellent work by Hampshire, the man of the match. He dropped a goal and Salford's first try, as he broke three tackles and stretched his legs over 60 metres, put Sal-

ford in charge. They were grateful for Dixons' missing his conversion of Milner's try from in front of the posts, before the result was put beyond doubt by Forber charging clear for a try and Salford adding his second.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Salford 12, Rogers, Goode, Birkby, Hampshire, Forber. Dropped goal: Lee Keighley. Try: Milner. SALFORD REDS: S. Hampshire, F. Dix, S. Goode, D. Forber, C. Birkby, S. Lee, P. Edwards, D. Edwards, C. Edwards, P. Forber, L. Savelio, S. Parapao, Subs: S. Martin, P. Mansson, A. Burgess, C. Rendall, R. Keighley, A. Coulson, D. Poulton, F. Robinson, S. Parsons, P. Charlton, S. Hall, F. Fleary, S. Whakarau, S. Wood, Subs: S. Wray, D. Lander, J. Berry, G. Cochrane, R. Relphett, R. Connolly (Wigan).

ROWING

Brownless adds another silver to world medal haul

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

ALISON BROWNLESS, 33, announced her position as Britain's greatest ever oarswoman with another unaccustomed whitewash. She and Jane Hall, 22, the Redgrave and Pinsent of women's lightweight pairs, produced a two-minute last 500 metres to overtake Romania and take silver behind the United States, the world champions. Brownless, who now holds one gold and five silver world medals, said: "I thought about sending for bronze, but I just couldn't do it."

In a game of spot-the-Parisian among a 4,000 crowd, the revelry was somewhat surreal. The good citizens of Paris had done their usual August flit south and left the Charley Stadium to an army of travelling supporters, who turned an occasion on foreign soil into something of a home fixture.

Sullivan was alert for his two tries and the others by Hunt, Perelini, Cunningham and Prescot. Sullivan (2) Gothic Gondola (4) PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN: J. Luchesse, P. Bonnecou, C. Gondola, P. Gondola, D. Bidet, P. Erard, V. Bommier, V. Wulff, S. Sando, J. Pech, J. Bryant, D. Smith, Subs: F. Barquet, D. Cabestany, J. Griffins, J. Parry, ST HELENS: S. Prescot, A. Hunt, A. Alcock, A. Arnold, A. S. Murray, R. G. Gossage, A. Perelini, K. Cunningham, A. Foggan, D. McEvoy, C. Birkby, R. Hampshire, Subs: F. Robinson, D. Gubby, A. Arnold, R. Relphett, R. Connolly (Wigan).

The Union Jacks were soon waving again as the women's lightweight four — Malindi Myers, Trish Corless, Robyn Morris and Jo Nitsch — almost exceeded the pair's example. Fourth at 10,000 metres, Nitsch, a veteran of the 1995 silver medal-winning four, steadily pushed the rate up from 37 to 41. Her crew responded, passing first Germany, then the American world champions, and were less than a second behind China at the line.

But the successes of the women were not mirrored by the senior men yesterday. Near misses came for the men's lightweight eight and the men's coxed four. The four, a crew of club oarsmen from Nottingham County, were very unlucky. Against the form as the slowest qualifiers in the final, Steve Trapmore, the stroke, drove his crew along in third place until the last stroke when Russia snatched the bronze by 0.2sec.

With most clubs in Britain based on rowing, the British view, backed by Germany, is that such changes should be more gradual. A meeting will be held with athletes and

CRICKET: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AGAIN MAKE MOCKERY OF CHAMPIONSHIP FORM WITH EMPHATIC VICTORY OVER MIDDLESEX

Sunday best keeps title hopes thriving

BY PAT GIBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4 pts) beat Middlesex by nine wickets

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE seem to be doing their level best to emulate the bizarre achievements of Yorkshire in 1983 and Kent last year by winning the Sunday League while finishing bottom of the Sunday championship.

Twenty-four hours after they had slumped to their fourth successive championship defeat, Nottinghamshire looked a different side altogether as they turned the tables on Middlesex to register their fourth Sunday win on the trot to move into third place in the AXA Equity & Law League table.

They still have Durham below them in the championship, of course, and they still have Northamptonshire and Surrey above them in the League, but it does look as though they are pouring all their energies into salvaging the £40,000 Sunday prize money from an otherwise dismal season.

Nottinghamshire's Jekyll and Hyde performances are epitomised by the form of their captain, Paul Johnson. When he was out for a duck on Saturday, it was the sixth time in eight championship innings that he had failed to get into double figures and he trudged off the field like a man carrying the cares of the world on his shoulders.

When he went in yesterday,

his side was cruising to victory in a match reduced to 32 overs by rain and he was back to his perky old self as he joined Robinson in an unbroken second wicket stand of 56 in ten overs which saw them home with 0.5 overs to spare. He is now averaging 54 in the Sunday League.

Middlesex too, had undergone a strange metamorphosis. They had batted and bowled with great discipline to win their first match under Mark Ramprakash's captaincy by an innings but, for some reason, Saturday night and Sunday morning in Nottingham had produced a listless side which never got out of first gear after their innings had been interrupted by a heavy shower after only ten balls.

Johnson had put them in with an eye on the weather but the threatening clouds offered no excuse for the way they played. Weeks was bowled in Evans's third over and then Pooley committed the cardinal sin of running out his captain. Pooley took Ramprakash by surprise by calling for a second run to long leg and he was left stranded when Noon, the wicketkeeper, took Evans's return and threw down the stumps at the bowler's end.

Pooley did not last much longer himself and it was left to the precocious Shah, 17, to give the Middlesex innings some substance by sharing successive stands of 39 and 38 with Carr and Brown. Shah, who is already a member of



Chris Adams, the Derbyshire batsman, makes the running on the way to a half-century during the AXA Equity & Law League match against Sussex at Hove yesterday. Sussex won on faster run rate

the England under-19 side, had made a big impression by scoring 53 on his championship debut and now he played with an urgency that was lacking in his seniors.

He had made 38 of 57 balls, hitting only two fours but running brilliantly between the wickets, when he became

the second run-out victim and this time he had only himself to blame. He played Bowen straight to mid-on and, perhaps forgetting in his youthful enthusiasm that Tolley is left-handed, was beaten by a direct hit.

The Nottinghamshire attack, sadly lacking penetration

in the first-class game, bowled tidily enough for this sort of cricket and Cairns, cutting down his pace to concentrate on line and length, cleaned up on the tail to finish with 4 for 22.

The rest was a formality.

Robinson is an old hand at this kind of thing as his record of more than 6,000 runs on

Sundays proves, and for the second week in succession Downman was thoroughly competent ally.

They had put on 83 in 16 overs when Downman pulled Fraser to square leg. By then, Middlesex were dispirited and Robinson and Johnson knocked off the runs.

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CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE BATSMAN MAKES HIS MARK FOR ENGLAND IN HEADINGLEY TEST THAT MAY PROVE LOST OPPORTUNITY

Knight plunders fine hundred in Stewart's wake

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (fourth day of five): Pakistan, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 53 runs behind England

ENGLAND spent the weekend batting with verve and character between the Yorkshire showers, amassing a total that many had considered beyond them against this passionate Pakistan attack. But there was no cause for celebration in the dressing room last night, only for regret over what might have been.

By scoring 501 when the Headingley pitch was at its most placid, England simply emphasised the heavy cost of their ineptitude on the opening day. If they had bowled even adequately on Thursday, when conditions were loaded in favour of their seven bowlers, this second Cornhill Test would have taken a very different course. England, almost certainly, would by now be on the point of winning it.

There is no escaping this conclusion and there may be no coming back from it. England's management was acutely aware that Headingley presented their best, perhaps only opportunity to level the series following the dramatic defeat at Lord's. The weather was kind to them, so too the toss, and the game plan perished not for its design but its execution.

If, as now seems all but certain, this game ends drawn today, Pakistan hold all the good cards going into the final Test at The Oval. They lead 1-0 and the ground holds no

terrors for them after their win there, early on the fourth day, in 1992. England have missed their chance and they should be berating themselves.

Positive thinking, however, will dictate that they focus on the good things to emerge from this game, of which there have been plenty. Yesterday, for instance, Nick Knight became the second England century-maker. Whereas Alec Stewart's hundred was his first in almost two years of Test cricket, Knight's was a maiden century made in only his fifth Test. It was also an extremely good one.

Stewart, on Saturday, was defying the theory that his England career was on borrowed time and doing it triumphantly well. The paradox was that his innings, the best he has played for England since making centuries in each innings of the win in Barbados in 1994, applied an additional pressure on Knight, who had been shuffled down to No 6 to accommodate Stewart's return to the right line.

Although the Reader ball was charged twice at the Pakistanis' request, and despite Wasim persevering for an excessive 122 overs before resorting to a second new one, the reverse swing of fear and fable was conspicuously absent. Without it, and with no sharp turn for Mushtaq Ahmed, Pakistan's main weapons were disarmed.

Wasim's one wicket on Saturday was that of Nasser Hussain, deceived by a looping off-break. When Mushtaq pounced Graham Thorpe on his crease and Kabir took the propped catch at short-leg England were still in danger of making 53 of a stand worth 89. Crawley will be cross that he did not go on — he has been getting out around the fifty mark too often for peace of mind — but this was his most assertive batting for England.

Stewart, who had celebrated his century with an uninhibited abandon that told much of his recent torment, fell late in the day, driving a return catch to Mushtaq, but Knight took control of the remainder of the innings, scoring his runs at a good pace and punishing anything loose outside off stump with uncomplicated vigour.

He was not inconvenienced by leg spin and, having made runs against

Wasim into his stumps, he struck him impertinently over mid-wicket on more than one occasion. His best stroke, however, was reserved for the new ball and for Rehman — a cover-driven four struck on the up with complete certainty.

Other batsmen were finding some odd ways to get out.

Russell dragged a rising ball



Knight shows his elation at completing the century which secures his Test place

Mushtaq for Warwickshire.

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Russell dragged a rising ball

from Wasim into his stumps; as it was only the second delivery with the new ball, Wasim may have wished he had taken it sooner. Lewis was then bowled between his legs by Mushtaq before Knight square-cut for four to reach his century in a little under four hours.

Dominic Cork, making some overdue runs, carried

the total past 500, something

England have not achieved at

Headingley for 29 years, but

now the light was grim and

it was clear Pakistan would

not begin their second

innings.

Soon, more rain was sweeping

down, eliminating the final

two hours of play and

leaving England more time to

re-arrange a game that got away.

HEADINGLEY SCOREBOARD

England won toss

PAKISTAN First Innings: 448 (Iez Ahmed 141, Moin Khan 105, Salim Malik 65, Asif Majeed 65, D G Cork 5 for 113).

ENGLAND First Innings:

"M A Atherton c Moin b Wasim ... 12

(12min, 13 balls, 2 fours)

A J Stewart c & b Mushtaq 170

(43min, 315 balls, 24 fours)

N Hussain c & b Mushtaq 46

(11min, 85 balls, 5 fours)

G P Thorpe c Shabab b Mushtaq 16

(82min, 54 balls, 2 fours)

J P Crawley c Moin b Rehman 53

(134min, 95 balls, 11 fours)

N V Madan c Majeed b Wasim 113

(258min, 176 balls, 18 fours)

H C Russell b Wasim 9

(73min, 49 balls, 1 four)

C C Morris c & b Wasim 5

(57min, 41 balls)

D G Cork c Shabab b Wasim 26

(82min, 71 balls, 3 fours)

A R Caddick c Wasim 4

(9min, 5 balls, 1 four)

A D Madan c out 9

(45min, 23 balls, 1 six)

Extras (b 7, lb 23, nc 2) 32

Total (156.5 overs, 655min) 501

Compiled by Bill Frindall

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Stewart 21, 2-131 (Stewart 59, 2-168 (Stewart 85), 4-257 (Stewart 114), 5-365 (Knight 43), 6-402 (Knight 70), 7-441 (Knight 96), 8-465 (Cork 7), 9-471 (Cork 9).

SCORING NOTES: Third day (start delayed 60min) Lunch: 145-2 (40 overs, 165min, Stewart 72, Thorpe 9). Tea: 243-3 (78 overs, 315min, Stewart 113, Crawley 40). Second (last) tea: 325-4 (90 overs, 175min, Stewart 113, Mushtaq 51, Russell 51). Fourth day (start delayed 104min) Lunch: 378-5 (115 overs, 478min, Stewart 53, Russell 2). Tea: 451-6 (115 overs, 517min, Stewart 9, Mushtaq 51). Second new ball: 402-6 (122.4 overs at 2.13pm).

UMPIRES: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (Third umpire: R Julian)

Match referee: P L van der Merwe.

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Lord's)

Pakistan won by 164 runs. Test to come: Third (The Oval) August 22 to 26.

□ Compiled by Bill Frindall

Illingworth era seems set for bitter ending

By ALAN LEE

WHEN Raymond Illingworth clambered on to a chair on the players' balcony yesterday and acclaimed Nick Knight's century with the fervour of a fan on the western terrace, it was a rare shaft of humour from a man who has recently worn little but his grumpiest expression.

The faintly ludicrous sight of the chairman of selectors with his arms aloft was his private joke, directed at the Sunday tabloids that mischievously drew attention to television pictures apparently showing him less than ecstatic when Alec Stewart, with whom he had what may be politely called a misunderstanding in the spring,

reached 100 on Saturday.

Illingworth said the pictures,

and the reports, misrepresented him, and that he had already acknowledged the century. But at least he was able to chuckle about it, and react accordingly. There have been other areas of the game this summer in which he feels he has been misrepresented, or not represented at all, and he does not feel remotely amused by them.

The curmudgeonly side of Illingworth has been given full rein this summer. His countenance has been constantly clouded by the ongoing saga of the disciplinary case brought against him by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and the consequent fine that he refuses to accept as just. It

has influenced his every act,

infiltrated his every conversation.

On Saturday he learnt that

his appeal will be heard by the

Cricket Council on Tuesday

September 3, which means he

will make two valedictory

appearances at Lord's in a

week. Six days after the ap-

peal, he will meet with his

fellow selectors to choose the

winter tour parties, his final

duty before standing down as

chairman with what he says

will be "great relief".

There are things that have

gone on this summer that I

don't agree with," he said,

obliquely. "I haven't enjoyed

the last few months and the

way I feel now I shall be glad

to get away from the game and

spend some time at my winter

home in Spain."

It is a shame to hear him speak this way

and a thousand shames that

his lifetime in cricket is evi-

dently about to end on a bitter

note. The England team needs

an upbeat chairman; his

point, however, is that the

chairman needs a united

game and he feels the cor-

porators of power have not ex-

plorably chorused their sup-

port for him.

Although Illingworth has

only grudgingly accommodat-

ed a shift of emphasis, under

the new coach, David Lloyd,

his darker mood has little to

do with those inside the Eng-

land dressing-room. His com-

plaints, I understand, relate

squarely to the offices of the

TCCB.

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CRICKET

Excitement of race for title cannot conceal mediocrity

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

This county championship race has been distinguished by quantity rather than quality and it is growing more confusing by the week. Seven points will cover the top five teams this evening if Derbyshire win at Hove and Leicestershire's frustrations at Swanscombe continue.

Three-day wins for Essex and Kent on Saturday ensured that Surrey, who won on Friday, would not slip the field. Leicestershire will return to the top if they beat Glamorgan but they missed the main chance by permitting a remarkable recovery in which the doughty Tony Cotter scored 203 and the last four wickets added 300.

The best of this round of matches, however, is at Hove, where Sussex have engineered an improbable winning position from what threatened to be an embarrassment. Martin Speight's century, followed by five wickets for Vassart Drakes, created a four-wickets target of 276 against Derbyshire and they resume this morning on 91 for two.

Victory would retain the prospect of Sussex winning the championship which, with their potent and varied bowling attack, is perhaps not as absurd as it seems. Nothing, however, better illustrates the contrary nature of a season that began, for Sussex, with an innings defeat by Warwickshire and the plain possibility that they were heading back where they languished at this stage last season — rock bottom.

Early August saw Sussex at their 1995 nadir. Five consecutive championship games were lost and the coach, Norman Gifford, resigned in despair, subsequently settling for taking charge of Durham, whose awfulness is at least more predictable. Sussex's inconsistency remains an exasperation to their supporters and if only their batting was not so brittle they could be genuine contenders.

Speight century-maker



Johnson: under pressure

Simon Brown has astonishingly gleaned more bowling bonus points than any other county. They just do not bat well enough to win, though, and the familiar second-innings decline is in prospect again at Edgbaston today, when they resume on 24 for two in pursuit of a distant 412.

The only remaining question about Durham is whether they will complete the season without a win. It seems inevitable they will finish bottom for the third time in their five-year existence, which offers a measure of reprieve to a club that has slipped from mightier habits into serious decline. Nottinghamshire.

Middlesex, given by injuries, have not threatened a title challenge this year but they were still good enough to flatten Nottinghamshire by an innings on Saturday, with a welcome return to form for one of their recent walking wounded, Richard Johnson. For his namesake, Paul, it was one more dismal day in what has been a chastening first season as Nottinghamshire's captain.

He was heckled and booed by what passed for a crowd at Trent Bridge on Saturday after his fourth-ball no-hodge had extended his wretched batting form — he has a mere 99 runs from eight innings. Under at least equal pressure is the club coach, Alan Ormrod, and, while the story came as a mystery to both parties, Graham Gooch has already been linked with his job.

Perhaps it is simply that Nottinghamshire have their priorities wrong. Certainly, they gave out depressing signals with the close-season signings of Ashley Metcalfe and Chris Tolley, respectively aged 32 and 28 and considered dispensable by their previous counties.

Would it not have been better and braver to encourage the young talent within the club, players such as Matthew Downman and Usman Afzaal, who have languished too long in the second-team?

Is this not the worst failing of English cricket, the instinct to seek the security of those who have achieved a certain level — if a mediocre one — rather than to invest in youth?

Almost certainly, it is a reason for the traffic jam at the top of this year's championship, where standards are too uniformly ordinary. It should also caution us against wasting too much sympathy on those at the bottom.

Revitalised Wells taps his hidden depths

Ivo Tenant meets a man making the most of a new lease of life at the age of 31

There is a view within the English game, held by Sir Colin Cowdrey among others, that a batsman does not reach maturity until the age of 30. As well as those blessed with lavish gifts, he had in mind the artisan, the type of professional who comes to the fore when little-known beyond his county's boundaries. For example, a cricketer such as Vince Wells.

Few could have matured so rapidly upon reaching this age as Wells. Here was an all-rounder who could bat anywhere, bowl niggardly seam-up and keep wicket and yet who found he had no future with Kent, the county of his birth. After four seasons on their staff, he had not convinced them that he possessed a talent to master these three differing skills. So, in 1992, he joined Leicestershire, who were looking on any number of discarded cricketers.

At Grace Road, there was no crowd, no cricketing week, no sense of history. Even the wheelbarrow had a hole in it. Wells appeared a functional cricketer in functional surroundings. But there was Jack Birkenshaw, one of the shrewdest of judges of a cricketer. The Leicestershire manager had seen that this unassuming 26-year-old, as he then was, had the makings of becoming more than just a useful bits-and-pieces performer who could stand in for the senior players when they were injured.

"I could tell that Vince was a lovely timer of the ball who could play all round the wicket," Birkenshaw said. "His unfortunate trait was that he was too nice to grumble when he was left out of the Kent side. He had probably been used a bit — this sometimes happens to the people who are the least trouble. He did not know where he was going in, whether he was bowling or whether



Wells on his way to a career-best 204 against Northamptonshire earlier this month

he was keeping wicket. Now, he suddenly realises that he can bat. He can play the short ball. If he is a late developer, it is only because his opportunities have come later in life."

How he has taken it.

Last season he made 645 runs and took 19 wickets in the championship — bits-and-

pieces stuff. This year, given the chance to open owing to Nigel Briers's injury and subsequent retirement, he has come up with one large innings after another. In three consecutive matches, one of them in the NatWest Trophy, he made 200, 201 and 197. This was followed by 204, his

career-best score against Northamptonshire. He coped against the new ball through a confidence he had not known before.

"Opening the innings has given me a more responsible outlook. My mental approach is different. I have tightened up my technique and become

After a year of relative inactivity, Wells has come into his own. He has been a great find for Leicestershire and, given the chance to open, he has coped against the new ball through a confidence he had not known before.

"Opening the innings has given me a more responsible outlook. My mental approach is different. I have tightened up my technique and become

as callow youths themselves. They have collectively played with a steely-edged competitiveness that has raised some eyebrows. Gibbs has scored 339 runs in 11 first-class innings, with highest scores of 183 against MCC and 178 against Surrey, an innings that contained eight sixes. Though small in build, he is strong and hits the ball so hard that when Gregor Koenig caught him at cover in the Surrey match he was forced off the field with a severely bruised hand.

Gibbs is pleased with his form on the tour, which culminates later this week in a four-day fixture against a TCCB XI at Chester-le-Street, but he is conscious that few opposing sides have put out their strongest attacks. He would like to come back to play county cricket next year, but already has a prior engagement: Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African Cricket Board, has put his name down for the country's main cricket academy in Johannesburg.

Fletcher finds it hard to pick out one innings from many exceptional ones played by Gibbs in recent weeks, but he is now sure about one thing: "I will be absolutely amazed if Herschelle does not play Test cricket and play it very soon."

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FOOTBALL: SHEARER AND NEWCASTLE RECEIVE RUDE WAKE-UP CALL FROM RUTHLESS DOUBLE-WINNERS

Shortage of charity as Cantona calls tune

FOOTBALL, being a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal, traditionally lacks charity. It is a game in which hardness is dominant: hardness in physical confrontation, hardness of purpose, hardness in execution. That is why, when the season opens as ever with a curtain-raiser called the Charity Shield, writers and headline makers turn on the word "charity" with such ironical delight.

Charity these days means money. Originally, it meant a disinterested love. What does charity mean in football? Are we talking about money? Or about disinterested love?

Alan Shearer, the most expensive footballer on the planet, stepped out for his first big occasion with his new club, Newcastle United, as they took on Manchester United in the Charity Shield yesterday, each club seeking to prove a point before the true hardness of League competition begins for real next weekend.

Shearer cost £15 million. And, after his series of excellent performances for England in the European championship, it seems that the nation took this monstrous sum of money in its stride.

No one, it seems, has seriously asked how anyone can be worth £15 million. But Newcastle, bankrolled by the love and money of Sir John Hall, and managed by the forever up-and-at-'em Kevin Keegan have taken yet another wild step into the footballing unknown.

It is, in fact, the third centre forward they have bought together, the others being Les Ferdinand, asked to surrender his treasured No 9 shirt, and Faustino Asprilla, the bewilderer and beguiler of Colombians, who was relegated to the substitutes' bench.

Now this is an awful lot of centre forwards and it might strike a normal observer of footballing matters that, if the crucial result of your previous season was a 4-3 defeat (by Liverpool, if you remember), then bolstering up the attack is not the most obvious priority.

Newcastle led all the way through last season, but fell away in the final furlong. That was when Manchester United ground out a series of 1-0 victories, most of them followed by a line in smaller print that read "Cantona 76min". Not making the small print, but equally important, was a string of saves, catches and interventions from the

SIMON BARNES



At the Charity Shield

mysterious Denmark goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel.

So what did Keegan do? Same goalie, same defence, and 15 million quid's worth of striking talent. So we lost the crucial match 4-3; that doesn't mean we should have won it 3-2, does it? No, we should have won it 5-4, right? Right?

Keegan, president of the campaign for real scorelines, has chosen glory beyond sense, or, at least, beyond logic. Not for him the football of fear; he is not a manager who lives his life in perpetual terror of the vote of confidence, not a manager who never dares to buy fitted carpets.

Rich enough from his playing days, he is part of the new breed of managers who can afford to take football on their own terms — rather than that of any chairman. And, Keegan being Keegan, the terms he has chosen are all to do with glory. "Doing things in style, not waiting for the other lot to die of boredom," as Danny Blanchflower remarked.

Some chairmen might lose patience with this, but clearly not Sir John. He, too, is rich enough, grand-spirited enough, to prefer glory to the sordid accountancy of the won/lost column. And, if this is not disinterested love, I don't know what is.

If ever there was a day to make the point of style over accountancy, this was it. *Le style c'est l'homme*, and the homme, as ever, was a certain Frenchman with a turned-up collar. Name: Eric Cantona. Price: one fifteenth of Shearer's. Value: incalculable. The heart and soul of the club.

He scored the first goal when the Newcastle defence gave him yards of space — if only they had asked me, I would have told them he was



Giggs helps Butt to celebrate his goal in the Charity Shield victory for Manchester United at Wembley yesterday

quite good — and made the second with a back-heel insouciant even by his own elevated standards.

Oh, and he should have been sent off for flinging Albert to the ground; but then no one ever claimed that the heart and soul of Manchester United were entirely made up

of disinterested love. Or of the lust for mere glory, for that matter.

As for Shearer, if he had been paid a million quid a touch for yesterday's show, we would get a fair bit of change from his price. What style Newcastle had came from Asprilla, a substitute. He is

even more skilful than Cantona and with a still more elusive and turbulent nature. Could he do for Newcastle what Cantona did and does for Manchester United? Perhaps that will remain one of football's eternal unanswerables.

Well, one pre-season match

is not a championship campaign. Perhaps, for Shearer and Newcastle, this is the wake-up call. Yesterday was simply dreadful. I am reminded of the returning prodigal in Monty Python: "There's more to life and truth and beauty, father. There's dirt, and grime, and work."

Sharpe seeks his England place at Leeds

By PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

HOWARD WILKINSON, the Leeds United manager, has had a frustrating summer in the transfer market, but his efforts received some reward yesterday. Manchester United have accepted his £4 million offer for their England international winger, Lee Sharpe. After meeting Wilkinson at the weekend, and having the first part of his medical yesterday, Sharpe is expected to finalise the signing this afternoon.

The transfer takes Wilkinson's spending to around £8 million so far since Leede's new owners presented him with a reported £12 million to spend on new players, with Lee Bowyer, Nigel Martyn and now Sharpe arriving at Elland Road. Ian Rush also joined on a free transfer.

Since the departure of Gary Speed to Everton, someone to play wide on the left was a priority, and Sharpe undoubtedly fits the bill. His past three seasons have been frustrating, littered with injury and inconsistency, but, if he can keep fit and respond to a new challenge, he is young enough to recapture the pace and ability to cross on the run that brought him eight England caps under Graham Taylor.

Sharpe joined Manchester United as a 16-year-old from Torquay for £88,000 and made an immediate impression. But, with the spate of recent signings at Old Trafford, his departure does not come as a surprise. He was linked with Liverpool earlier in the summer.

"I was watching Euro 96 when I realised I needed first-team football to get back my place in the England team," Sharpe said. "I don't think I regret leaving United but, after eight years at Old Trafford, it is never easy. I am looking forward to my days at Leeds."

Terry Venables, the former England coach, is considering an offer to join Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club, as director of football. Venables, who guided England to the semi-finals of Euro 96 in June, will hold further discussions with Martin Gregory, the Portsmouth managing director, to finalise the terms of the job this week.

"Portsmouth is a club that has had a lot of support and it could be turned into a big club again," Venables said. "I have had more substantial offers from abroad but I want to stay in this country. I'm now free again and I would like to put my time to good use."

Venables has been linked with FC Porto, Napoli and the Turkey national team since he relinquished his role with England, and with rundown Fratton Park appearing an unlikely stage on which to

reappear. The club has debts of £2.5 million, is losing £54,000 a week and narrowly avoided relegation to the second division last season.

Yet Venables has always had close links with the Gregory family — Martin's father, Jim, appointed him as manager of Queens Park Rangers in 1980 — and he was invited to watch Portsmouth's pre-season match against Bristol City on Saturday, which they won 1-0.

"Things are looking quite positive and, after I speak to Martin, I sort out a few matters, I'm hoping it will go ahead," Venables said. "I just think the club is lacking direction. They have potentially good players and coaching staff and, with a little bit of help, they could do really well."

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, is likely to be retained, with Venables adopting an advisory role.

Don Howe, who assisted Venables throughout Euro 96 and has been involved with England for almost 20 years,



Sharpe: new challenge

may be relieved of his coaching duties for the 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign, which begins in Moldavia on September 1. It was reported yesterday that Glenn Hoddle, the new England coach, will be asking Howe, 60, to concentrate on his job as interim technical director of the Football Association.

Howe was coaching at Chelsea three years ago when Hoddle became manager, but left swiftly after being offered only a scouting job. Hoddle has also reshaped his backroom staff since succeeding Venables, appointing John Gorman, his No 2 at Swindon Town, as his assistant.

Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest captain, has reconsidered his decision to retire from international football, which he announced after England had been beaten by Germany in the European championship. Having since spoken with Hoddle, he has made himself available for the game against Moldavia.

Disappointing Rangers sound alarm for honest Wilkins

Brian Glanville watches Wimbledon stroll past a team short of new ideas

Will Queens Park relegated last season, bounce straight back up to the FA Carling Premiership? On Saturday's showing, it is debatable. Wimbledon, in the sunshine of Shepherds Bush, strolled past them 1-0 in a pre-season fixture and, afterwards, Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, did not mince his words.

Small, quick, bright, ironic and honest, Wilkins is a rare bird among managers, let alone player-managers. "We were inept," he said.

So, alas, they were. With typical generosity, Wilkins conceded that "Wimbledon were 'super' and that they had passed the ball well."

A less charitable assessment was that they were allowed to do the kind of things for which Wimbledon are not generally noted courtesy of a Rangers team that was pathetic in defence.

Wilkins tactfully said that he did not want to talk about "certain areas of the team" but he doubtless had plenty to say in the dressing-room to the defenders who left such enormous gaps and stood back early on to allow Wimbledon to the winning goal. Robbie Earle was left quite alone to head in a Vinny Jones free kick from the left. They also serve who only stand and wait.

"Thank God it was a pre-season game," Wilkins said. The alarming thing was that most of this Rangers team was precisely that which was relegated last season, despite a number of impressive victories against the likes of Everton and West Ham United. Wimbledon should have had several more goals, and would have done had it not

been for the athletic bulk of Jürgen Sommer, Rangers' American goalkeeper.

Wilkins played in midfield for most of the game and, to the neutral eye, looked no worse than anybody else in a floundering side.

"Nice of you to say so," he told a complimentary reporter. "I thought I was abysmal."

Did he take himself off? He was asked.

"No, Frank Sibley, the assistant manager, took me off," he replied. "After today, I'll have to think about it. I have done a lot of hard work in pre-season and played a lot of games, and that was my worst performance. I'll sit there and take stock."

Wilkins is 39, Mark Hateley, who played with him at Glasgow Rangers, is 34. There was some surprise when Wilkins brought him down from Scotland last season. Once so mighty in the air,



Wilkins: typically generous

dreams of England, was foolishly impulsive. That way expulsions lie.

Rangers now have a new chairman now. No more choruses of "We want Thompson out, we want Thompson out".

Richard Thompson, now at Leeds United, will no longer have to suffer the abuse of Rangers supporters as he disappears down the steps from the directors' box. To be fair, they had once abused even Jim Gregory, the chairman who made the club, with those west London choruses of "Resign Gregory, resign!"

Chris Wright, the new chairman and Rangers follower for years, was on holiday abroad.

Diplomatic to a fault, Wilkins said: "It is difficult when a new chairman takes over. The initial outlay is an immense amount of money." In other words, he cannot know what he will have to spend and does know he did not spend it too well last season on Hateley, Ned Zelic, the Australian now with Auxerre, and Simon Osborn, who was sold to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Will Trevor Sinclair have to go? Wilkins said that the only offer he has had was from

Rangers' own former manager, Gerry Francis, now at Tottenham. A violent clash with Ben Thatcher, the new Wimbledon left back, could have got both of them sent off, rather than substituted.

Emollient again, Wilkins explained that, having turned out in the past couple of matches, and not being in the starting XI on Saturday, Slade wanted to show "he was up to it". "I did not think it was only at that time," he added.

It wasn't. Thatcher's retaliation, after he had played a model game and even raised

Barmby's start is delayed by injury

NICK BARMBY, the England forward, is expected to miss the start of the FA Carling Premiership season after being injured in an uncompromising pre-season match against Internazionale yesterday.

More than 20,000 supporters, at the Riverside Stadium for a testimonial match for Willie Maddren, saw Barmby sustain a calf injury after six minutes of the match, which finished 0-0.

Gianluca Vialli said that he is 40-50 per cent fit after making his home debut for Chelsea in Steve Clarke's benefit game against PSV Eindhoven, who won 3-2.

However, the Italian forward added: "At Southampton next week I hope to be 100 per cent fit and you will see a different Chelsea."

The Southampton manager, Graeme Souness, has pulled out of a move for Uwe Rosler after being told by Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, that he would have to pay £3.5 million for the German forward. Souness had hoped to sign Rosler for £2 million.

From next Monday *The Times* will publish a combined half-time and full-time grid which will include the pools value of the half-time scores. Littlewoods is running a new competition in which £250,000 can be won if punters obtain the maximum number of points available by correctly predicting half-times. The other significant change is that the pools value of coupon matches which has been reduced from 58 to 49.

Celtic show early signs of failing to last distance

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

I had been fearing that the first afternoon of the new FA Carling Premiership season would have about as much charm as the May Day parade in the former USSR when rocket launchers, tanks and other ingenious instruments of death trundled past the podium. On Saturday, the Old Firm were supposed to mount their own show of strength.

Instead, to the relief of those who like a little spontaneity with their sport, the two clubs malfunctioned. Rangers, with a 1-0 victory over Raith Rovers, suffered no harm, but the result did prove that they can be prevented from inflicting a routine rout, even when facing a humble opposition, on their own ground. Celtic came far closer to complete breakdown.

At Pittodrie, only an equaliser by Andreas Thom in the closing seconds allowed them to salvage a 2-2 draw with Aberdeen which they had led. It was one of those occasions where affluence seems only to buy a larger set of problems.

On his competitive debut, Alan Stubbs, the club's record signing at £3.5 million, was sent off. Having sauntered impressively through his duties, the central defender, with Celtic 1-0 ahead, stupidly failed to make an interception, so allowing Duncan Shearer, who came on as a substitute, to sneak in behind him.

Stubbs then had to attempt a tackle from behind and, seeming to catch man as well as ball, conceded a penalty in the 73rd minute. Mr Dallas, the referee, showed him the red card and Dean Windass scored from the spot. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, detected injustice, believing

that Stubbs's challenge was cleanly executed, but he also recognised the lapse in concentration by the centre-half that began the whole episode.

The mental stamina of the entire Celtic team, however, was brought into question by the result. Having been reduced to ten men, the disorientation in defence when Shearer scored Aberdeen's second goal ten minutes from the end was entirely natural, but a less pardonable inattention did the real damage to Celtic.

Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, claimed that the visitors had "shaded" the first half. Shade? This was an eclipse, with Aberdeen functioning in the dark, rarely coming across the ball. At that stage, Celtic played with great assurance and each player's gifts seemed to supplement another's talents.

So, Pierre van Hooijdonk's head-flicks encouraged Jorge Cadete to make his darting intrusions behind the defence. There was a balance in midfield too, with Thom and O'Donnell providing thrust on the flanks, while Peter Grant held firm in the center of the pitch.

The play was beguiling and the chances abundant, but

Celtic carelessly missed them, as if convinced that victory was unavoidable in a game they were controlling. Only van Hooijdonk was to score in the first-half, curling a 30-yard free kick into the top corner of the net.

Aitken rightly praised his team for their comeback, but doggedness should never have been allowed to reap such rewards. As after the break, Aberdeen at last secured access to the other half of the pitch, the first few symptoms of queasiness were apparent in a Celtic side that suddenly realised how vulnerable they still were.

Aberdeen could have had a goal as early as the 54th minute, when Gordon Marshall fumbled a cross and only van Hooijdonk's block kept the shot by Windass out of the net. Such poorly-disguised agitation nourished the hope that strengthened Aberdeen.

Just as scientists may due life on Mars from a few marks on a piece of rock, so there are pundits who will try to determine the whole outcome of the championship from the first afternoon's action. Football, of course, is not amenable to such methods, but Celtic will realise that Saturday's leniency needs to be expunged from the team's personality if they are to win the premier division.

A draw at Pittodrie would often be regarded as gratifying, but at present Aberdeen, for whom Tzanko Tzvezanov, the Bulgarian, made a pleasing debut in midfield, are caught up in the process of reconstruction. When faced with such vulnerability, a Celtic team with aspirations towards the title ought to be vindictive.

ATHLETICS: HANSEN SETS TRIPLE JUMP RECORD AS BRITAIN'S OLYMPIANS FIND SPARSE GUARD OF HONOUR AT CRYSTAL PALACE

Atlanta braves make do with low-key home run



Christie farewell

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

HAVING heard that British Olympians had resorted to selling their kit in order to make ends meet in Atlanta, I was on the lookout for bargains outside Crystal Palace yesterday before the Performance Games. I rather fancied a Great Britain track suit. No go, unfortunately. Perhaps things were not as bad as we have been led to believe.

To hear people talk, one would imagine that Britain had won nothing at the Olympics. At least Britain's athletes secured some medals, while Terry Venables's football squad only managed the fair-play award in Euro 96; but then the Olympians did not have a catchy song. "Athletics is coming home" does not quite have the ring of that

other summer anthem of 1996. Nothing, it seems, succeeds like perceived success.

Expectations are also a factor, as Ashia Hansen, fourth in the Olympic triple jump, said after setting a United Kingdom record of 14.67 metres yesterday. "There was a lot of pressure out there in Atlanta, and I put a lot of pressure on myself," she said. "I wasn't expecting to jump as well as I did today. I've been ill for a couple of days with a sore throat, coming back to the English weather, but today I was able to relax. It was the performance I was looking for at the Olympics."

As the announcer said, part of the function of this invitation meeting was to welcome Britain's Olympians back from Atlanta. After complaints about the steam bath

climate, they were probably delighted to get back to cool, overcast and intermittently rainy south London. Like the weather, the attendance was patchy, although early forecasts of an embarrassingly small crowd were not borne out. Even so, the place was barely one-third full for

Results 28

the return of Black, Edwards, Lewis, Buckley and friends.

"Coming back to a half-empty stadium is very depressing, and we all felt it, every one of us," Roger Black, a double silver medal-winner in Atlanta, said. "Is it because we didn't win any gold medals? I don't think so. British athletics should be

able to fill this stadium every time, but this was too close to the last grand prix, and probably under-promoted. It's saddest for Linford, on possibly his last appearance at Crystal Palace." Unless Dave Bassett makes him an offer, that is. Christie signed off with a comfortable win in the 150 metres before saying: "I'll be back next year — sitting in the stand."

Like Black, Mark Richardson — also a member of the 4 x 400 metres silver medal-winning team, and the winner of the 300 metres yesterday — denied that popular reaction to Atlanta had been as negative as that in the media. "I've experienced mass hysteria, really," he said. "I didn't expect the reaction. You would have thought we'd won the gold."

Olympians from other countries

were also present. Vebjørn Rodal of Norway, for example, the 800 metres gold medal-winner, won the men's 1,000 metres, and the former world javelin champion, Karen Fokel, of Germany, beat Tessa Sanderson into second place. Appearances to look towards the press box, Sanderson announced that reports of her retirement had been exaggerated. "I will be at the world championships next year. You don't just lie down and die at 40," she said, which will be a relief to many.

Tony Jarrett, with a little finger-waving as he won the 110 metres hurdles, was the closest the crowd saw to any of the triumphalism for which the Americans were criticised, although they had a lot to be triumphant about. Faint praise, on the other hand, may be as damaging to British athletes' chances as high hopes. John Ridgeon, still unbeaten by a British athlete in 1996, the announcer said, putting on the bravest face possible as Ridgeon faded from first over the final hurdle to a gallant third at the tape in the 400 metres hurdles.

The crowd had not been fooled, of course. Their cheers had died away with Ridgeon's chances of victory. And they know what they like. A devil-take-the-hindmost men's 3,000 metres featured, yes, a man dressed as the Devil, complete with pitchfork, whose job it was to remove the back marker at the end of each lap. The nut-turning in the press box was in contrast to the enjoyment of the crowd. Serious business, athletics. Atlanta a national tragedy? Maybe not quite.

TRIATHLON

Late charge by Lessing takes race by storm

By DAVID POWELL

THE image of triathlon is of sunny days, bronzed bodies and golden beaches in Hawaii or on the Côte D'Azur. When the International Triathlon Grand Prix made its entry into Britain yesterday it rained so hard that the start was postponed twice.

The race was delayed when word reached Longleat that brighter weather was on the way but, as the music on the public address suggested, it was *Mission Impossible*. After 65 minutes, officials gave up waiting for the deluge to stop and the 20 invited triathletes dived into the lake next to Longleat House.

If it was a typically British wintry summer's day, there was at least a typical victory to enjoy. Simon Lessing, the long course and standard distance world champion, pulled away

Results 28

on the final three-kilometre run to take the overall grand-prix lead after two of the eight races in the series.

The weather conditions made it very challenging. Lessing said: "You had to be careful not to slide out on the bike." Lessing and Brad Beven, the Australian who finished second, had to be especially careful. Two weeks hence they will be the main contestants in the standard distance world championship in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lessing said that his victory on the 10,000-acre Longleat estate was a jab in Beven's jaw. Beven was runner-up when the Briton took the standard distance title in Cancun, Mexico, last November. "Brad is going to be my main opposition in Cleveland and this gives me a little psychological advantage," Lessing said.

In contrast to championship racing, the \$1 million (about

£660,000) grand prix, which is in its inaugural year, has put the emphasis on explosive competition. Yesterday the Enduro format was used. This involved a 500-metre swim, 14-kilometre ride and three-kilometre run, repeating the dose without a break.

Lessing, third out of the water on the first lap, settled in the chasing group of riders for much of the second phase. However, by the end of the six-lap cycle course the two leading groups, comprising eight competitors, had closed together.

By the end of the second swim the leading group was down to four, Lessing, Beven, Hamish Carter, from New Zealand, and Ben Wright, from Australia. They remained together through the ride but were broken up in the final transition when Carter, first out and barefoot, was followed swiftly by Lessing.

Each competitor had been introduced beforehand according to his sobriquet. Chris "The Professor" Hill, Brad "The Croc" Beven, Jimmy "The Cockroach" Ricciello. By the time it came to Greg Welch, water had got into the PA. "Greg — we call him Mickey Mouse, I'm sorry Mighty Mouse — Welch".

Although there was nothing to choose between the four leaders after five of the six sections, Lessing, a renowned strong runner, always looked the most likely winner. The sting in the race had been removed the day before when Spencer Smith, his fellow Briton and winner of the opening grand prix in Koblenz, withdrew.

Smith fell down the stairs at his grandmother's home in Twickenham, hurting his ribs. After riding the bicycle course on Saturday, he decided he was not fit to compete. "This quality of field you have to be 100 per cent," Smith said. "I



Lessing shows the strain on his way to victory in the first International Grand Prix race to be held in Britain

am not willing to show myself up." It was to have been the only race between the two Britons, the world's leading triathletes in Britain this year.

Smith, twice the standard distance world champion, will have an X-ray examination today to determine whether his ribs are cracked or, as he believes, only bruised. Like Lessing, this was to have been his last race before turning his attention to a world title although, in Smith's case, his eyes are not on Cleveland.

Lessing is not defending his long course title in Muncie, Indiana, next month, but Smith is determined to make sure that both championships remain in British hands. He will return tomorrow to his home in San Diego, having moved there three years ago for warm-weather training, to prepare for Muncie. He has resolved, whatever the diagnosis, to train through with the world championships in mind.

The South African-born Lessing banked \$25,000 for his victory, recording 1hr 19min 21sec. Beven, six seconds behind, took \$20,000 and Bright, who clocked 1:19.38, \$15,000 for third.

Rarely can a sports event with so much prize-money have had such little spectator support, fewer than 1,000 in attendance. The adverse weather and out-of-town venue proved an unappealing combination and next year the event is likely to move to Bath City centre.

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Agassi and Chang to clash in final again

TENNIS

Agassi and Chang to clash in final again

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDRE AGASSI and Michael Chang will meet for the ATP Championship title in Mason, Ohio, for the second successive year after beating Thomas Muster and Thomas Enqvist, respectively, in the semi-finals.

Agassi, the defending champion, top seed, still on a high after winning the Olympic gold medal, dominated Muster, the second seed, throughout his 6-4, 6-4 victory.

"I think my motivation is really simple," Agassi said. "Muster is world No 2 and has been playing good tennis, so I wanted to go out there and prove I could win the match." Muster admitted he had no answer to Agassi's onslaught.

Chang, third seed, reached his fourth successive final of this event, which he won in 1993 and 1994, with a 6-1, 6-2, win over Enqvist, the tenth seed — his first victory over the Swede, who had won their three previous meetings.

"I don't think I served very well," Enqvist said. "I was trying to play aggressively and I must be on top of the



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TM0002

Woolmer impressed by display of youthful skills

By IVO TENNANT



TO QUALIFY for the semi-finals of the Lombard World Challenge, the compelling international under-15 World Cup, England, who have gained victories over Canada and Zimbabwe, have to win their final group. A match at Lensbury in west London today. If they lose, West Indies, their opponents, will go through with India. Likewise, South Africa have to beat Australia to join either Pakistan, who have won their first three matches, or Sri Lanka from group B.

There was a rest day yesterday, at least for the boys, who have mixed together well. In celebration of the competition, a charity celebrity match was staged at Oundle School, the bowling opened by Devon Malcolm and ... Samantha Fox. She had one reasonably presentable over, although this was not exactly what Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, was referring to when he declared how impressed he was at the standard of the cricket he had seen during the first week.

The very fact that Woolmer was present, at a time when he

was supposed to be on holiday, was testimony to the thoroughness with which South Africa plan for the future. He believes that the replacements for the likes of Donald and de Villiers will come from this age group. In other words, he is looking for some of these 15-year-olds to be Test cricketers within the next four years.

There have been other familiar figures at Oundle, a school with impressive pitches. Indeed, one of them arrived to visit his son at 2am last Thursday, only to find him, not surprisingly, asleep in the dormitories that are housing the boys. Abdul Qadir, the great Pakistani leg spinner, always had a sense of the

dramatic. In the marriage hall where he runs in Lahore, there is a mural depicting a young Imran Khan with full, sensuous lips. Qadir named his son after his former captain.

The Pakistanis are perhaps the strongest team in the two groups. Imran Qadir, although he lost his length last week, has already mastered the googly. Basit Khan, Majid's son, who is expected to progress as quickly as the captain, Faisal Iqbal, attends Atchison College in Lahore, which in terms of educational standards and sporting facilities is comparable to the top schools in England. Both Majid and Imran Khan went there.

The teams that cannot now qualify are Canada and Holland — neither of whom won any of their four matches — Zimbabwe and, surprisingly in the light of the pride they take in developing young cricketers, Australia, who have won only once.

Rather than fly home, the teams from these countries will take part in a mini tournament at Oundle this week, while the semi-finalists move on to Trent Bridge and Headingley.

MORE THAN

50

COMPANIES HAVE SO FAR

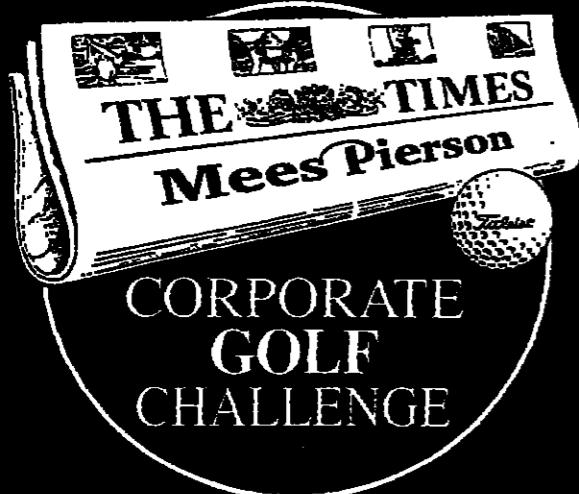
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RUGBY UNION: LAST-QUARTER RALLY PUTS NEW ZEALAND IN MOOD TO WIN FIRST SERIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

All Blacks set sights on higher prize

South Africa 18
New Zealand 29

By DAVID HANDS

THIS MAY have been the final match of the southern hemisphere's inaugural tri-nations series, but New Zealand have turned it into the entree for the only prize in world rugby to have eluded them, a series win in South Africa, for which the host country will be shorn of their inspirational captain, François Pienaar.

Thus victory in Cape Town on Saturday, in a final-quarter rally stunning even by their own standards, has laid down a marker for the next three internationals that form part of the All Blacks tour. Significantly, it was achieved without Jonah Lomu, the giant wing who has come to personify the new All Blacks.

There have been those — notably in England, who suffered at his hands in the World Cup semi-final on the same Newlands ground last year — who have made Lomu the difference between New Zealand and the rest. A damaged knee had not mended in time to allow him to play against South Africa, yet New Zealand still had the physical, and mental, resources to overcome the boulder that is the home defence.

At 18-6 down early in the second half, New Zealand's cause looked bleak. They had lost Little, their centre, they were making numerous mistakes on a slippery surface and they had conceded two tries to the World Cup holders. But the South Africa scrum never attained the dominance that André Markgraaf, their coach, may have expected and Ian Jones brought New Zealand back into the lineout contest.

The game of the future may feature close support work and second phase, but the ability to compete at the set-pieces remains a prerequisite. That was never better illustrated than when New Zealand pounded away with multi-phase movements only to get their crucial try — their first in 390 minutes of striving against these opponents — from a lineout won by Robin



Ian Jones, the New Zealand lock, bursts through the despairing tackles of the South Africa lock, Steve Atherton (left), and prop, Os du Randt

Brooke. It earned them the lead for the first time in the match with only nine minutes remaining.

The two facets of the game go hand-in-hand, of course, with New Zealand's speed of movement sapping the strength of a tiring defence. Yet the try by Osborne, ironically, Lomu's replacement, featured wonderful accuracy by Mehrtens in the pass, by Cullen in the lineout, from which Dowd dived over for the try that sealed South Africa's fate.

It is a moot point whether the commitment to attack that is now the trademark of the All Blacks.

Moreover, Fitzpatrick's men kept their heads. While South Africa plunged back to the New Zealand 22, there was a frenetic edge to their play that had not been there earlier and which culminated in a bout of ill temper and a double penalty to New Zealand. Mehrtens kicked them into the lineout, from which Dowd dived over for the try that sealed South Africa's fate.

It is a moot point whether

the loss of Pienaar with half an hour still to play affected the result, which leaves New Zealand unbeaten at the top of the tri-nations table and South Africa rooted to the bottom. The balance of back-row defence was upset, Andrews moving to the blind-side flank from lock because there was no specialist back-row forward on the South Africa bench; the captaincy passed to Saturday in Durban.

Both Pienaar and du Randt, the loose-head prop, left the field on stretchers with their heads immobilised. X-rays revealed that Pienaar had suffered a slipped vertebra and will not play for at least three weeks while du Randt had suffered concussion and must rest for the mandatory 30 days. Both players will miss the back-to-back internationals this month, beginning this Saturday in Durban.

(Western Province): J T Stansby (Western Province), J H van der Westhuizen (Western Province), P J du Randt (Western Province), J M Moller (Natal), M H Hunter (Northern Transvaal), J F Pienaar (Transvaal, captain), S J Andrews (Natal), M G Andrews (Natal), R J Venter (Natal), G H Teichmann (Natal), Pienaar replaced by J J Strydom (Transvaal, 5th), Du Randt replaced by D Theron (Griqualand West, 2nd), Little replaced by a lameleg (Western Province), G H Teichmann (Natal), Pienaar replaced by J A Kromkamp (Cape), Z V Brooke (Auckland, 4th), Little replaced by a lameleg (Western Province), G H Teichmann (Natal), Pienaar replaced by A Stevens (Auckland, 6th).
Referee: D T M McHugh (Ireland)

SCORERS: South Africa: Tries: Moller, du Randt, Converzion: Stansby. Penalty goals: Stansby (2), Andrews, Teichmann, Dowd. Converzions: Mehrtens (2). Penalty goals: Mehrtens (5).
SOUTH AFRICA: J T Smith (Natal), P Hendrie (Transvaal), J C Moller (Transvaal), H P le Pota (Transvaal), J Swart (Transvaal).
Referee: D T M McHugh (Ireland)

Unsure England to carry on planning

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THEIR international programme in the new year may remain in doubt but England's playing preparations are going forward apace. Jack Rowell, the national manager, watched yesterday's international between South Africa and New Zealand in Cape Town while John Elliott, the national development officer, will watch four of England's hopefuls in action for the Barbarians against Scotland next Saturday.

A squad of 45 — albeit without such luminaries as Will Carling, Dean Richards and Rory Underwood — has already met to train at Bisham Abbey and it will reassemble on September 4 as England build towards their first commitment of the season, against Italy at Twickenham on November 23.

"We have our problems but, for the first time ever, we have a planned season," Elliott, who will be watching Tony Underwood and the Leicester front row at Murrayfield, said. "In the past we have been thrown by the seat of our pants. Next season we will know exactly when we have our players and that's a huge breakthrough."

It is intended to bring the under-21 elite development squad to train with the seniors at Bisham, though the international planning is being affected by the uncertainty of the

club schedule. Elliott and his colleagues intend to build sessions around the Anglo-Welsh midweek tournament, except that no one yet knows whether that competition will get off the ground.

Whether England's post-Christmas programme of five nations' matches takes place remains in the hands of the game's politicians but, irrespective of that, their three pre-Christmas internationals do not compare with those of Wales, who could be involved in as many as six preparatory matches before next February.

Beginning with the meeting with the Barbarians in Cardiff on August 24, Wales move on to games with France (September 25), Italy (in Rome on October 5), and South Africa (Cardiff, December 15). In addition, they hope that Australia will be able to fit in an extra international in late November, on the back of their scheduled tour of Scotland and Ireland, and the United States will make a brief visit in January, culminating in an international with Wales on January 11.

The revised Welsh coaching panel now includes Paul Turner, who will assist Swarbrick's Mike Ruddock with the emerging players. Turner, the new director of coaching at Bedford, was interviewed for the post of coach to England's Under-21 team last season.

American dream to shape future

David Hands meets the man overseeing the process of change in rugby union

ter and control rugby's laws in a uniform manner, to develop the game and improve playing standards and to promote rugby so that it becomes more relevant as an international sport.

"Playing tournaments is the best promotion which is why we will throw some of our influence on the world youth tournament [which the Federation Internationale de Rugby Amateur has run successfully for several years] and the women's world tournament," Wacker said. "That is in addition to the Rugby World Cup and the RWC sevens."

"It's not good for the game that Australia, who beat Canada and Wales by such large

margins, should lose as heavily as they did to New Zealand in Wellington," Wacker said. "I think we should have closer games between the top sides. I would like to see 20 teams worldwide playing within 20 points of each other."

"That would be a credible goal for the IRFB to try to achieve, within five years. It would be too soon for the 1999 World Cup, though we can at least get better in that time. We have to break it down and understand why New Zealand play so well: is it numbers, is it their schools programme, do talented young players elsewhere choose to play, say, Australian rules or rugby league?"

"I think rugby union can take control of its own destiny. I hope it can," Wacker said. "If not, the genial former prop from Indianapolis will want to know why. He is one of the new generation of rugby administrators, including Richard Jasinski (Wales), Philip Browne (Ireland) and David Moffett (New Zealand) with no illustrious playing background to speak of but a proven career of success in business."

Though one of his initial tasks is to oversee next month the removal of the board from its Bristol home to St Stephen's Green in Dublin, Wacker sees the IRFB function as threefold: to adminis-



Wacker wants to raise the international profile of rugby

Chasing Olympic gold now a serious business

IT may be an unpalatable thought for those suffering from sports fatigue after sitting through every event at Atlanta, but the real race for gold at the next Olympic Games has already started.

For the moment, the battle will be fought outside the Olympic arena and have more to do with scoring points in the political than the boxing ring. But the upshot of Great Britain's dismal showing in Atlanta looks likely to result in the nation finally learning to treat Olympic sports as a serious business.

Britain's less than flattering position in the medals table is a legacy of an amateur tradition that has bequeathed a rickety funding structure but, despite the nation's penchant for glorious defeats, being a good amateur is no longer enough to guarantee even modest success on the world stage.

Some competitors, especially the more glamorous athletes, have been able to make the leap to a truly professional footing, but most of the British Olympians will always lack the television appeal that is central to the financial boom in sports such as football and rugby. Equally,

big sports companies will only ever be looking to back the real crowd-pullers in the 100 metres final. It is never going to be a realistic business venture providing large sponsorship contracts to the rifle-shooting team, whose brief moment of glory only arrives once every four years.

The two chunks of lottery money that have been promised to help support athletes in the next few years will help to plug the gap. The £100 million mooted for the establishment of a national academy of sport is only a headline figure — no one is quite certain how much the project will cost at this stage. The tendering process for the central academy and the specialist regional centres has only just begun. But it seems likely that the private sector will also have a role to play, topping up funds for facilities in return for a sponsorship name.

A further £20 million of lottery money has been pledged to help to meet the training costs

of athletes. Again, the true cost can only be guessed at and the private sector is likely to be asked to help contribute.

A few private-sector companies had already begun to play a role in helping British sport before the Olympics. Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the City-based fund management group, is not the kind of business that would normally be associated with sport. But MAM has invested around £60,000 in the past two years, helping several young Olympians to reach the games. MAM's support yielded one outstanding success — Ben Ainslie, who at 19 became the youngest Olympic sailor to win a medal.

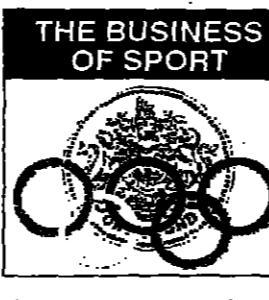
MAM channelled its support through the Sports Aid Foundation, a voluntary organisation that provides financial support to up-and-coming athletes from the age of 12. The Sports Aid Foundation is a classic example of the archaic nature of sports funding in this country.

dependent on voluntary contributions and fundraising events for its £2 million budget.

The foundation says that the poor showing in the Olympics has already prompted a number of other companies to come forward and offer some help. Seaboard, the electricity company based in the South East, has already unveiled a £100,000 sponsorship programme for five athletes drawn from its area.

Realistically, Olympians are never going to attract the kind of money ploughed into other professional sports. The attraction for the private sector, though, is that this form of sponsorship is in tune with the kind of community-based charity expenditure that most large companies already make. It has, however, little in common with the huge marketing exercises undertaken by official sponsors of the Games and is unlikely ever to appeal to the Coca-Cola's of this world. Investing in athletes will allow companies in less glamorous industries to dream a little of sharing the glory of a British gold in 2000.

ALASTAIR MURRAY



SAILING

Smooth start by Silk 2 secures class

Edward Gorman reviews the honours list at an incident-packed Cowes Week

The battle of the Bashfords was finally settled on the last day of racing at Skandia Ltd Cowes Week on Saturday. Jocelyn Waller's *Silk 2* snuffed her best race of the regatta, in 20 knots of breeze, to take a well-earned win in Class 1 from Glynn Williams's *Wolf*.

The two yachts — both Bashford-Houston 41s — had enjoyed close racing all week, with the lighter *Wolf* giving her sister ship 20 seconds an hour on handicap. In the end it all came down to the last race with both yachts clear of the chasing pack.

Mark Heeley, the helmsman on *Silk 2*, said: "We started better than they did, got ahead on the first shift and stayed ahead all the way round. It turned out to be our best overall result — we beat both yachts clear of the chasing pack."

The Solent Sunbeam fleet lost two races for the second year running when there was no wind on the first day and far too much on the fourth. Yet despite this, no discard was allowed which perhaps influenced the final results overmuch.

Alan Stannard, with *Jenny*, emerged the winner for the third year in a row with a consistent but not sparkling performance. John and Jane Maxwell's *Harmony* finished just a point behind. Roger Wicks, with *Danny*, had the best results in the first three with three wins and a second, but could not shed a disqualification from race one and had to settle for third.

The feature of the week in the class, however, was undoubtedly the appearance of *Polly*, skippered by Jonathan Money — the first Falmouth Sunbeam to take on the Ithchenor-based Cowes Week fleet since 1971. *Polly*, which does not normally sail with a spinnaker, was sporting a slightly bigger jib than her hosts and was definitely quicker upwind.

Money put together three wins, a second and a disqualification, before packing up to return to Falmouth on Friday night. He is coming back next year and is hoping that more Cornish boats will join him.

The maxi class, which had its own starts for the first time in ten years, was won by Ludde Ingwall's Grand Mistral, one-design *Nicorette*, which celebrated with an unsuccessful attempt on Longboard's Round-the-island record on Saturday.

One other notable performance was that of the Class Four winner *Owl*, a Contessa 33 owned by Peter Bruce, which finished with just 4.5 points after winning six of the seven races she sailed.

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Barry Trowbridge takes sides in the golden jubilee year of a little-known sport that now has Olympic recognition

It's not a basket or a net, it's a korf

As the Olympic flame went out in Atlanta last weekend, korfball in England celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a golden jubilee tournament in Beckenham, southeast London — and very few people noticed. Symptomatic of the majority of truly minority sports in Great Britain, in that it needs funding to expand yet has been told repeatedly that it must widen the base of its playing pyramid before it will be considered for a handout, korfball's biggest problem is one of identity — "You play what?" — and that, indeed, is a shame.

Adapted by Nico Broekhuysen, a teacher in a mixed school in Amsterdam, from a game that he saw being played in southern Sweden in 1902, korfball is championed by those at its heart as the only sport worldwide that, by definition, *must* be played by mixed teams, and is a handball game of pace and immense variety.

To give a visual description to the vast majority who have never even heard of korfball, it is best defined as a mixture of basketball and netball. The pitch is rectangular and measures 40 metres by 20 metres indoors or 60 metres by 30 metres on grass, and is divided in two. If you touch the lines around your division, you are out of bounds.

There are eight players in a team: two men and two women play in defence and the same in attack, but, after every two goals — scored by either team — the players change divisions, and roles: attackers become defenders and defenders become attackers.

Players are not allowed to run with the ball, although the interpretation of gaining ground is far less prohibitive than in netball, so the use of space and movement away from your opponent are important. This creates the appearance of eight defenders shadowing eight attackers from beginning to end, which is, indeed, the case as players tend to keep an individual opponent throughout.

Goals are scored through a basket — without the backboard that is such an integral part of basketball — that stands 1.8m off the ground and is placed at two-third distance between halfway and the endline. Play, therefore, can continue when a shot is missed, so tall players obviously have an advantage in ball-retrieval here, while the part of the pitch

behind the post is an area in which to keep your opponent's eyes off the ball.

Players may shoot from anywhere in the attacking zone, provided that they are not being "defended" by somebody of their own sex; the definition of "defended" being that the defender must be within arm's length of and facing the attacker, be between the attacker and the post, and be actively trying to block the path of the ball — not, note, blocking the free movement of the attacker's arms. Simple: lose your defender off the ball, receive a pass, then shoot.

Although very much a team game — the ball must be passed to the right place at the right time if you are to shoot — to succeed at the top level, individuals require balance,



acceleration, hand-eye coordination and the ability to think ahead and move into space, but the fact that players have to continually change their roles means that "stars" — ie, goalscorers — tend to be eclipsed by team success.

Not until after korfball was demonstrated at the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920 did its fascination stretch beyond the Dutch border — Belgium duly taking up the challenge — but that was the limit of expansion until after the Second World War.

Through the Anglo-Netherlands Sports Association, Dutch players demonstrated

the game for the first time in England at Willesden, northwest London, on July 6, 1946 and, in September 1948, a league was born comprising six teams: two each from Croydon, Mitcham and Wandsworth.

Although the game became established in southeast London, expansion in England in the next 30 years was minimal, but by 1980 a league had been formed around Maidstone, Kent, and the world governing body, inevitably Dutch, was looking on England as a prime site for growth.

By this time, too, what was to prove a far more significant metamorphosis had begun. The removal of the centre division when the game was played indoors, the subsequent cut in team size from 12 to eight and a worldwide shift in emphasis from an outdoor sport to an indoor one, were to make korfball far more marketable. In England, Max Buttner and Graham Box, young men about to begin university courses, were also to make their mark.

Established players in London and Kent, respectively, they introduced indoor korfball to London and Oxford universities, and the student jungle telegraph took over. Domestically and globally, the development of korfball in the next 15 years was to make its mark.

From its base in London and Kent, the National League was formed in 1987 and the game in Great Britain now attracts some 4,000 players and is firmly established in more than 30 centres — nearly all university towns — ranging from Aberdeen to Brighton and from Plymouth to Norwich, where there is a junior league comprising 26 schools. This weekend, 27 teams contested the national county championship in Nottingham.

Internationally, korfball is established in more than 50 countries and it has been recently afforded full membership of the Olympic movement. In magazines just published, the international federation has featured the game in such diverse places as Armenia, Australia, Russia, South Africa and the United States; in Taiwan, it receives Government funding.

The most recent world championship was held in Delhi, India, in 1995, when Britain finished eighth. In 1987, Britain was third. Although the world of korfball is expanding fast, there is no reason why that decline should continue. With the National Curriculum determining that children of both sexes are taught skills rather than expertise in specific games, korfball seems to have all the requirements to spread nationwide.

It may have taken 50 years to lay the foundations, but international success — and, in the not-too-distant future, perhaps Olympic recognition — is there for the taking ... once people stop asking "You play what?"



Playing the game: mixed teams swap the roles of defender and attacker during play



Family fun: John Crisp, left, with his children Anne and David, and grandson Roger

KORFBALL had been established in England for less than three years when John Crisp made the discovery of what he describes as "the biggest influence on my life outside of my family".

He played his first game in February, 1949, and, at 68, he still turns out occasionally for the Petham club, which is based in Wimbledon.

He met Joyce, who was to become his wife in 1953 — "the date was chosen because Mitcham had no league fixture that weekend" — on a korfball pitch two months later, so it is not surprising that their two sons and daughter took up the sport as youngsters.

Stuart, the younger son, eventually drifted towards football, but David, 38, and Anne, 34,

are still actively involved, and Roger, Anne's nine-year-old son, is an eager junior, proving that, for the Crisp dynasty at least, korfball really is a "Sport For All".

A lover of the outdoors, John Crisp is adamant that the condensed game of the Nineties does not have the appeal that a 90-minute, three-division match on a winter Sunday morning used to have.

Nevertheless, his enthusiasm for korfball is clearly as strong now as it was when he captained the successful Mitcham club from 1952 to 1967 and he still finds time to train each week and is an ever-present at all-day tournaments, a noteworthy feature of this most social of sports.

THE next opportunity to see korfball is at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, on September 21, when Croydon, the national champions in what is also their fiftieth year, compete with their counterparts from France and Portugal in a European Cup qualifying tournament. Further details and other information from the British Korfball Association, PO Box 179, Maidstone, Kent, or from Max Buttner, 9 St Kilda's Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1QD (081-863 8723).

WHERE TO WATCH

From Mr M. Byford

THE next opportunity to see korfball is at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, on September 21, when Croydon, the national champions in what is also their fiftieth year, compete with their counterparts from France and Portugal in a European Cup qualifying tournament. Further details and other information from the British Korfball Association, PO Box 179, Maidstone, Kent, or from Max Buttner, 9 St Kilda's Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1QD (081-863 8723).

From Mr C. Johnston

Wimbledon still open to allcomers

From the Chief Executive of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

Sir, Simon Barnes's article (Midweek View, August 7) provided an enjoyable read as ever, but a pity he could not resist an inaccurate swipe at Wimbledon. For the record perhaps I might be allowed to correct one or two things.

Not only do tennis fans

continue to have genuine ac-

cess to tickets through the

public ballot and the country's 2,500 affiliated tennis clubs,

but Wimbledon remains one

of the few top sporting events

in this country for which

people can still buy tickets on

the day.

You might also like to know

that corporate hospitality repre-

sents under 10 per cent of the

ticket allocation on Centre

Court and No 1 Court and that

over the past few years, the

club has reduced the level of

corporate hospitality within

the grounds. Indeed, there are

plans to reduce it still further

in the future.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER CORRIGE,

Chief Executive,

The All England Lawn Tennis

and Croquet Club,

Church Road, Wimbledon,

SW19 8AE.

Yours faithfully,

HAMPDEN,

Glynde Place,

Lewes, Sussex.

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SPORTS LETTERS

Olympic failures rooted in coaching ethos

From Mr M. Byford

Sir, There has been much deliberation as to the cause of our poor showing in the Olympics. As the Government embarks on a potentially costly course of action to rectify this, I may offer another view. I am involved in coaching, mainly tennis and rowing. In order to do this competently, professionally and with minimum injury to athletes, I have to study for a BSc, a Masters degree in Medical Science and a PGCE and also taken a number of vocational qualifications at considerable expense. As a reward, I am instructed by the LTA that I can charge £15 per hour for coaching (this money covers shoes, balls, rackets, re-strung and the rowing tradition is that the only payment is that of gratitude).

The question I would ask is why bother? The coaching ethos in this country is to

promote ex-athletes to the highest positions where they can reinforce the poor and

sometimes debilitating methods they were coached under. They know very little of physiology, et cetera. This is not sour grapes. I have had major success with my scientifically-based coaching methodology, but have been unable to break into the old boys' (and girls') networks which govern both these sports. Ex-top class athletes should be marketing sport and encouraging children to take part, not coaching unless sufficiently talented and trained as "teachers".

I suggest the Government targets its support at the grass-roots and rewards these people realistically for their contributions in order to maximise the number of potential Olympians. rather than fritter it away by making the elite even more so at the expense of British sport as a whole.

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Korf

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Comp	Price	Yield	Div	PE
4489 St Albans Distillers	49	1.6	1.6	17.5
3939 Sun Chalice	2.5	1.6	1.6	12.5
10450 Generations A	36	1.6	1.6	12.5
92790 Bellavista	45	1.6	1.6	12.5
10350 Distillers Direct	29	1.6	1.6	12.5
61590 Harrow Distillers	25	1.6	1.6	12.5
11350 Distillers Direct	25	1.6	1.6	12.5
51540 Distillers Direct	25	1.6	1.6	12.5

BANKS

Comp	Price	Yield	Div	PE
102820 ABN-Amro	45	1.6	1.6	12.5
62110 HSBC	52	1.6	1.6	12.5
24300 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
24330 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13350 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13360 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13370 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13380 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13390 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13400 Nat West	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
27440 Edex	59	1.6	1.6	12.5
51490 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13410 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13420 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13430 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
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13960 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13970 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13980 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
13990 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14000 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14010 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14020 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14030 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14040 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14050 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14060 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14070 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14080 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14090 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14100 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14110 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14120 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14130 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14140 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14150 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14160 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14170 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14180 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14190 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14200 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14210 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14220 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14230 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14240 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14250 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14260 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14270 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14280 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14290 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14300 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14310 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14320 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14330 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14340 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14350 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14360 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14370 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14380 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14390 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14400 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14410 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14420 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14430 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14440 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14450 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14460 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14470 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14480 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14490 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14500 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14510 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14520 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14530 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14540 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14550 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14560 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14570 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14580 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14590 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14600 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14610 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14620 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14630 Clydesdale	35	1.6	1.6	12.5
14640 Clydesdale	3			

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BPP, Henderson Admin, London Finance & Investment, Smith & Nephew, TBI, WPP Group. Finals: Australian Opp Inv Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment trust.

Economic statistics: UK July producer services; Bank of France money market tender; Bank of France discount T-bill auction; US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: BOC, General Accident, General Cable, Lillehall, Sedgwick Group. Finals: VDC. Economic statistics: US July consumer price index; US July retail sales; US Mitsubishi weekly store sales; US July real earnings; US Atlanta fed survey; US Johnson Redbook sales; US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills; French provisional q2 employment data.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: F&C Income Growth Inv Trust, Glynned International, Hemingway Properties, Independent Insurance Group, MAD. Finals: Celtic, Dunedin Japan Inv Trust. Economic statistics: Minutes of July 3 monetary policy meeting between the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England; July British Retail Consortium survey; UK July unemployment; UK May average earnings; unit wage costs; US June business inventories; US Q2 non-farm productivity; Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interims: T Clarke, LM Ericsson, Microwire, North Midland Construction, Portmarnion Potters, Rea Brothers Group, Hanson (C3), Johnson Group Cleaners. Finals: Kleinwort High Income. Economic statistics: UK July RPI; US weekly jobless claims; US July industrial production; US August Philadelphia Fed survey; US July capacity utilisation; US Treasury auction of 52-week T-bills; Philadelphia Fed August business survey. Public holiday in most of Europe, French markets closed.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK July PSBR; US July housing starts; US August Michigan consumer sentiment.

COMPANIES

CLARE STEWART

WPP bathed in a golden glow

WPP: British Olympic medals may have been thin on the ground, but WPP, the marketing services giant, will have enjoyed the publicity glow surrounding two of its largest clients, IBM and Kodak — Olympic sponsors and big spenders.

Interim figures today from WPP look set to show profits up by a third to £64 million, helped by strong revenue growth and continued margin improvement.

Bumper profits will also take Martin Sorrell, chief executive, nearer the target set for his controversial long-term incentive scheme, which could pay him £28 million over five years.

Suggestions of a share buyback have helped to buoy shares recently, but WPP, which still has debts to reduce, may prefer to spend its surplus cash on small infill acquisitions or on beefing up the dividend.

SMITH & NEPHEW: Uncertain conditions in the US and slower growth in the UK are likely to hold back sales at Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group.

Interim pre-tax profits, due today, are expected to rise about 7 per cent to £91 million, but analysts have trimmed back full-year forecasts to less than £190 million.

Interest in the surgical dressings to Simple soap group is likely to focus on progress in important new areas, such as its joint venture with Advanced Tissue Sciences to grow human skin artificially. The Dermagraft product is expected to have considerable potential for use in treating burns, ulcers and in conjunction with plastic surgery. The company has hinted that more hi-tech developments are being sought.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: The first of a clutch of insurers reporting this week will see the cost of winter weather claims feature heavily tomorrow in its figures for the six months to June, and operating profits are expected to fall from £254 million to about £170 million.

The underwriting result overall is likely to show a sharp fall, with analysts at NatWest Securities forecasting an increased loss from £8 million to £141 million.



Assessing the damage: General Accident's Bob Scott is expected to report a sharp fall in profits

Life profits, however, look rosier, helped by the acquisition of Provident Mutual earlier this year. Bob Scott, chief executive, said that first-quarter progress was better than originally expected and profits are expected to outpace rationalisation costs this year. A dividend of 11.4p, up 6.5 per cent, is forecast.

SEDGWICK GROUP: The impact of the weaker dollar and disappointing new business levels in the US will be seen in tomorrow's results from the insurance broker. The City is expecting a small increase in pre-

tax profits on last year's £63 million, with estimates ranging between £64 million and £68 million. An unchanged dividend of 3p is forecast.

BOC: Third-quarter results from the industrial gases group should see pre-tax profits in the range of £110 million to £115 million, against £99.8 million in 1995. Continued evidence of strong earnings growth is expected and a full-year result of £460 million before tax is being pencilled in.

GENERAL CABLE: Reduced pre-tax losses are expected when

General Cable reports interim figures tomorrow. Losses are expected to narrow to £9 million against £11 million in 1995.

General Cable, which operates franchises in West London, Birmingham and Yorkshire, has recently taken full control of Yorkshire Cable. While profits are not expected until 1999, further good news on cash flow is expected. The group was cash positive in the last quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996.

News on subscriber levels and telephone line connections will also be sought to give an indication of the group's progress.

GLYNWED: A modest increase in pre-tax profits is forecast for the Midlands engineering conglomerate, which reports half-year figures on Wednesday.

Sliding metals prices and a lacklustre construction industry have held back progress at Glynwedd, where profits are set to increase by about 6 per cent to £44 million. The figures will also include an increased contribution from Vistavul, the pipeline products manufacturer acquired last year.

Analysts say that restructuring at the group, which produces products ranging from Aga cookers to manhole covers, means it is well prepared for recovery in its key markets.

MAID: The online information provider will be expected to report good news along with its interim figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax losses are set to rise to a little less than £3 million, compared with a profit of £408,000 in the first half of 1995. The losses reflect the cost of the company's rapid growth, but the City will swallow this if there is news of more expansion and new deals to sustain the momentum.

Shares in the group headed by Dan Wagner, its 33-year-old chief executive, have had a roller-coaster ride, propelled ahead by its link-up with Microsoft and by alliances with IBM, Compuserve and Forte, now part of Granada. Shares begin this week at 280p, having touched a high of 341p in 1996.

HANSON: Chemicals will be under the spotlight when Hanson releases third-quarter figures on Thursday. Ahead of exceptional items — chiefly the proceeds of its £2 billion disposal programme — analysts are looking for pre-tax profits in the range of £255 million to £300 million, compared to £232 million last year.

The results will highlight the impact of falling prices on Hanson's chemicals businesses, which are due to be floated off in October. Earlier this month Hanson announced cutbacks in its SCM business, the world's third-largest producer of titanium dioxide, supplied to the paint, plastics and paper industries.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation data in spotlight

After the Bank of England's cautious words on inflation last week, coupled with the suggestion that interest rates might need to rise, attention will focus sharply on the inflation-related data published this week.

The inflation statistics for July will be unveiled on Thursday, with MMS forecasting headline inflation to jump from 2.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent. The Government's favoured RPIX measure, which excludes mortgage payments, is expected to show a similar increase to 3 per cent. But some economists believe that downward pressure from mortgage rates and the continuing supermarket wars may help to keep the inflation rate in check.

Producer prices data for July, which provide an indication of potential inflationary pressures at the start of the distribution cycle, will be published today.

The sector has struggled in recent months and MMS predicts that factory output prices will show a monthly fall of 0.1 per cent, compared with a 0.2 per cent drop in June, while the yearly rate will show a fall from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent. However, input prices are expected to rise slightly after an increase in oil prices.

On Wednesday, July's unemployment is expected to show a further fall of 15,000, compared with 14,300 in June. In spite of the continuing fall in unemployment, average earnings for June are predicted to show a modest 3.5 per cent rise.

On Friday, the public sector borrowing requirement is forecast to rise by £0.2 billion, although the Government has little room for error if it intends to push through tax cuts in the autumn. The British Retail Consortium retail sales survey for July, published on Wednesday, is expected to show strong growth, although a touch below June's 7 per cent rise.

Overseas, attention will focus on US retail sales, which are expected to fall 0.5 per cent, and housing starts, where a small fall to 1.46 million is also predicted.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY HIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Fenner, Quicks, N Brown Group and Takare; Hold Morgan Sindall and General Accident. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy W H Smith, N Brown Group and Home Counties Newspapers; Hold Airtours. **The Observer:** Buy De Beers and GKN. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Bensons Crisps and Rentokil; Sell RJB Mining; Hold Bluebird Toys.

Deutsch Telekom 'near to cable deal'

TOURIST RALES

CHANGE CHANCE

THE FOAM

US dollar

German D-Mark

French Franc

Swiss Franc

Italian Lira

Spanish Peseta

Australian Dollar

Canadian Dollar

Japanese Yen

Chinese Yuan

Malaysian Ringgit

Chinese Yuan

Law Report August 12 1996

Court of Appeal

Restraining foreign proceedings

Court of Appeal

Wrong defendants named on writ

Airbus Industrie GIE v Patel and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous

Judgment July 24

Where a plaintiff, who fell and broke her ankle when visiting a members' club, sued for damages naming the defendant as the Hibernian Dance Club, an unincorporated entity, the issue which was raised on appeal was the question of who was the intended defendant rather than whether the claim against the named defendant was maintainable.

In all the circumstances it was not considered that the mistake made, namely to sue the members and/or proprietors of the club under a collective title apt to describe them but devoid of personality at English law, as opposed to suing individually named defendants, was such as to cause any reasonable doubt that the claim was being asserted against the membership as a whole.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Prince Fahd bin Salman Abdul Aziz Al-Saud against the decision of Mr Justice Phelan, on May 23, 1995, at West London County Court, where he allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Dyan Murray, against the order of District Judge Haselgrave who, on

having regard to the extent of the prejudice to Airbus and the advantages to the claimants in litigating in Texas, concluded that it was not appropriate to do so.

There was no precedent covering the case, all previous cases having been concerned with the interrelation of English proceedings and proceedings in a foreign court.

The answer had to be found by having regard to principle. The statements of principle found in the authorities did cover cases such as the present but it was not clear if the facts justified its application.

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The exercise of the discretion whether or not to grant the remedy was for the judge. However, if he had not applied the right criteria or had not correctly selected and evaluated the facts and circumstances, the Court of Appeal had to exercise the discretion itself.

The judge had not set the tests at the appropriate level nor had he

correctly evaluated the facts.

Three aspects were relevant to whether there was in fact an injustice:

1. What was the natural forum for the determination of the dispute. There could be no question but that Texas was not.

2. Whether Airbus would be prejudiced by the continuation of the claimants' proceedings against them in Texas. They would, liability, if any, would be determined by the Texas court on the basis of strict liability under Texas law which on the principles of conflict of law had no place in the determination of the liability to the English claimants.

3. Whether, in light of the claimants' proceedings in Texas against Airbus, would deprive them of a legitimate advantage. The avoidance of delay was a legitimate advantage as was the ability of the claimants to obtain finance thanks to the contingent fee system prevailing in Texas.

The judge wrongly evaluated these factors. Further, he wrongly excluded the fact that the Texas courts did not allow any consideration of whether Texas was an appropriate forum for the conduct of the claimants' proceedings in Texas.

The judge had not set the tests at the appropriate level nor had he

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The judge had not set the tests at the appropriate level nor had he

Danger of inferring intent only from action

Regina v Woollin

Before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Collins and Judge Myerson

Judgment July 23

Deutsche Telekom 'near to cable deal'

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM is thought to be close to forming a cable alliance that could emerge as the prime competitor to Mercury Communications in the lucrative business market.

Deutsche Telekom, the monopoly phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government in the autumn, is considering buying a stake – thought to be no more than 30 per cent – in Bell Cablemedia, the third largest cable company.

Bell Cablemedia would then launch a takeover bid for Videotron, the sixth largest player. Videotron, controlled by Groupe Videotron, of Montreal, has been on the auction block for several months and is widely expected to fall into Bell Cablemedia's hands because it already owns 20 per cent. None of the companies would comment.

Observers said that the deal, if it succeeds, would create a formidable force in

the corporate telecoms market because the franchises of Bell Cablemedia and Videotron cover Westminster, the City of London, and Canary Wharf.

The cable companies, in turn, would have an instant overseas partner in Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest phone company.

Deutsche Telekom would also give the cable companies international access through Global One, the alliance that recently formed with France Telecom and Sprint, America's third largest long-distance telephone company.

Analysis and telecoms experts said that a Deutsche Telekom cable alliance could pose a significant competitive threat to Mercury Communications, which has largely abandoned the residential market and makes the bulk of its income from City and business customers.

Mercy insiders said that the deal, if it succeeds, would create a formidable force in



George Magan has seen his firm give advice on 22 deals

Hambro Magan is best in sector

By JASON NISSE

JO HAMBRO MAGAN, the corporate finance boutique founded by George Magan, the former Morgan Grenfell leading light, has emerged as the most successful independent corporate finance house in the first survey of the sector.

Phoenix Securities, whose founder, Sir John Craven, left to rescue Morgan Grenfell, Bots & Co, the media specialists with links to Herbert

Allen, the Wall Street financier, and Broadview Associates, a specialist information technology house, also figured strongly in an analysis to be published in *Acquisitions Monthly* tomorrow.

Specialist boutiques are becoming increasingly important in the City, taking many of the deals that the larger merchant banks cannot handle either because of conflicts or because the larger firms think the deals are too small.

However some of the largest bids of the past couple of years have been led by specialist firms. Hambro Magan advised Swiss Bank Corporation on its purchase of SG Warburg, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer on its bid for Fisons and United News & Media on its merger with MAJ Group.

Acquisitions Monthly found that Hambro Magan advised on 22 deals worth £6.9 billion in the 18 months to June this year, putting it at number 13 in the list of all advisers, while Phoenix worked on 23 deals worth £1.52 billion.

TOP TEN

Boutique	Deals	Value, £m
JO Hambro Magan	22	6,914
Phoenix Securities	23	1,517
Bots & Co	1	1,487
Broadview Associates	36	1,248
Apax Partners	20	366
Dawn Day	9	207
Arvil Partners	6	201
Phoenix Securities	38	177
Corporation Finance	17	127
Livingstone Guarantee	22	78

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.09	1.92
Austria Sch	17.29	15.70
Belgium Fr	50.45	48.15
Canada \$	2.22	2.07
Cyprus £	0.743	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.46	8.68
Finland Mark	7.51	6.86
France Fr	8.28	7.81
Germany DM	1.30	1.25
Greece Dr	383	356
Hong Kong \$	12.65	11.65
Iceland Kr	1.07	0.93
Ireland £	5.27	4.82
Italy Lira	2469	2314
Japan Yen	103.30	100.80
Malta £	0.55	0.541
Netherlands Gld	2.735	2.505
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.84	9.50
Portugal Esc	22.00	22.50
S Africa R	7.82	8.82
Spain Pta	202.50	189.50
Sweden Kr	10.51	10.21
Turkey Lira	128.70	124.70
USA \$	1.851	1.821

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Details of exchange rates for large cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5496 (+0.0071)
German mark
2.2908 (+0.0113)
Exchange index
84.6 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2796.3 (+23.9)
FT-SE 100
3810.7 (+40.1)
New York Dow Jones
5681.31 (+1.48)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
20551.05 (-389.36)

AIM breaks through the £4bn barrier

THE Alternative Investment Market's capitalisation has broken the £4 billion barrier after more than £178 million was raised last month, against £77.2 million in June.

Although there were no new issues last week, trading on existing stocks gathered pace, with the FT-SE AIM index rising 19.4 points during the week to close at £1060.

Firecrest, whose shares recently returned from suspension, was heavily traded on rumours that it is about to name Lehman as its new broker, exposing it to new investors. Shares in Tmacaderro, the leisure group, rose 9p to 79p on rumours that it may secure sponsorship deals with Pepsi and Marvel Comics for its indoor theme park.

New issues return this week, with the placing of Chemical Design at 100p per share. However, SkyNet, the car protection company currently trading on Oxfex, has decided to pull its flotation.

FRASER NELSON

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

AICH

(b) An alloy of copper, zinc and iron, used in gun-making. An eponym of the patentee, Johann Aich (3 February, 1860). "Aich's Metal is a brass of the 60/40 type that has good casting properties."

DOP

(c) In full, *dop brandy*, made from grape skins, and fiery rough. The Afrikaans word, "Jim got his daily number of lots of poisonous dop brandy."

CROCKFORD

(c) A colloquial designation of *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, a reference book for the clergy and the Church of England, first issued in 1860 by John Crockford. Not to be confused with the exclusive gambling club opened in St James's Street, London, in 1827 by William Crockford (1775-1844). "In more distant vicarages there were anxious searching of the *Guardian* and *Crockford*."

EN-SOPH

(a) In Cabalistic doctrine, the absolute infinite and incomprehensible God. From the Greek for "One-Wise-Thing". The chief deities of the Cabalistic Doctrine are these. The Being from whom all things proceed is a Spirit, uncreated, eternal, existing by the necessity of its nature, and filling the immensity of space. This spirit is En-Soph, the Infinite Deity."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rxd5 Wins quickly. One possible variation is 1... e5d5 2 Qb6+ Kd7 3 Qxh7+ Qe7+ Rb5+ Kd8+ Rg8+ and White emerges a piece ahead

NEC

NEC Corporation

The Annual Report of NEC Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1996 is available upon request. Please direct enquiries to the address below.

PR Office

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Mail order shopping declines

The home shopping market fell last year, according to Verdict. The retail consultant claims that the industry has held vast amounts of useful information on customers for years, but has failed to capitalise on it. Such information could be used to produce better-targeted catalogues.

Instead, says Verdict: "The major companies remain wedded to cumbersome 1,000-page books which seek to be all things to all men – or in the case of the vast majority of mail order agents, women." Home shopping sales in 1995 totalled £7.3 billion, the study calculates, a fall of 21 per cent on the previous year.

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in Wolves
ed scores

THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 12 1996

A heart-rending, mind-blowing weekend

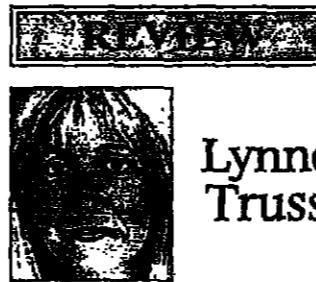
The way to imagine the brain, apparently, is as a blancmange inside a biscuit tin. This helpful image was provided by a neurosurgeon in the course of Kay Mellor's excellent two-hour drama *Some Kind of Life* (ITV) last night. It's an image which will live with me for a considerable time. No amount of asking "How about a Quality Street tin?" or "What if the tin is lined with doilies?" will ever quite dispel its power.

Jane Horrocks' husband Steve (Ray Stevenson) had suffered brain damage in a bike crash; and the way to imagine the effect (said the surgeon) was that his biscuit tin, containing the blancmange, had been hurled at a wall. She gulped; the audience gulped; and some of us looked very glum indeed. Every time we saw Steve after that, we could hear the clash of thin metal on brick, and imagine his brain all squashed up in one corner of his head.

Some Kind of Life was the sort of drama I usually can't abide. Stories about heroic domestic carers are customarily based on real people, and are thus not only constrained by the facts, but written and performed to flattery. Julie Walters is often crucially involved. From the start of last night's compelling film, however, one felt in safe hands, with terrific acting, great photography, and everything ringing true dramatically: Horrocks, as Alison, ticked the checklist of predictable emotions — disbelief, rage, hope, despair — while circles darkened around her eyes, but when she cried, she really meant it. Steve recovered enough to call everybody "Stupid", but he would never remember about being Alison's husband. "Do you love me?" Alison asked him, finally, over a romantic dinner he didn't understand. He nodded vaguely. "Yes. Is Rosi coming tomorrow?"

Finally Alison did a most remarkable thing. She stopped hoping. In the last ten minutes of the film, having ensured that her now infantile husband was comfortable and cared-for, she put her little son in a bed and left home. Steve didn't need her. None of this was explained in big speeches: Kay Mellor's masterly script was understated from beginning to end. Alison's decision was therefore shocking, but as clear as light. Stopping on the Yorkshire lane where her "real Steve" had crashed, she placed flowers on the road. Everybody knew it: the real Steve was simply never coming back.

Not a particularly happy subject for a Monday morning, but don't blame me: blame the blancmange. Steve was no longer Steve because he had lost Steve's memories, just as the women in Tony Harrison's brilliant 1993 *Screenplay*. Black



Lynne Truss

Daisies for the Bride (BBC2, repeated last night) had lost their identities in the blizzard of Alzheimer's. "The person that you know is no longer there, but the shell is there," said a relative in *Black Daisies*, in voice-over. "It's like a bereavement," said another. "It is a bereavement. It's horrible." Meanwhile the women (all real Alzheimer's patients, with real past lives beautifully evoked by

Harrison's bridal songs for each) sat up in their beds, rolled their tongues, repeated "I love you, I love you." She was ever so clever, said a relative of Kathleen's, heart-breakingly. Memory serves a double tragedy here: a tragedy Kathleen is no longer clever; a tragedy somebody can remember when she was.

Anybody interested in the fallibility of the brain had a cudging weekend of it, actually: with Ken Campbell's *Brainspotting* (Channel 4) also devoting an hour to the investigation of consciousness — with lots of shots of a detached brain bubbling in a blue-lit tank, and a surgeon drawing firm black pencil lines on Campbell's own, well-shaped bald head. "Where in my brain do I reside?" he wanted to know, but various philosophers and scientists failed to help him with an exact location. Apparently the Ancient Greeks barked up the wrong tree completely, fancying

that we existed in our diaphragms, the seat of breath. This mistake is understandable, however: once you remember the Greeks had no teeth, it's easy to see what a bad name for a dentist.

So. What a fascinating weekend. On *mindless* entertainment, but high on mindlessness. Seeking alternative stimulation, I watched the first part of Stephen King's *The Stand* on Saturday (BBC1) but it was rubbish. No preamble should take 90 minutes, even if the ultimate subject is the annihilation of America's population by a virulent flu. Atchoo. The story kept switching locations ("Queens, New York"), and discovering more people coughing, but there is a limit to the number of times this is interesting. Still, somebody quoted Yeats, which was nice. Just a shame he called him "Yeets". "Things fall apart, the centre does not hold," he said. Sounds like what happens to the little gezer, when he's thrown against a wall.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (47367)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (2032541)

9.20 *Della Smith's Summer Collection* (i) (Ceefax) (7659812)9.50 *Gourmet Ireland* (s) (5093812)10.20 *Florida Folic That's Showbusiness* (2521541)10.45 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (5768314)10.50 *Cricket — Second Test: England v Pakistan* (737980)12.00 *News* (Ceefax) (179298)12.05pm *The Alphabet Game* (4955831)12.35 *Neighbours* (5793034)1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (40454)1.30 *Regional News and weather* (4506522)1.35 *Cricket* (7314205)1.35 *Neighbours* (446756)6.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (531)6.30 *Regional News magazines* (183)7.00 *The Good Food Show* (5473)7.30 *The Rantzen Report: Neighbourhood Rage*. This week's topic is the increase in disputes between neighbours (2/2) (367)8.00 *EastEnders*. Alan moves into the square for good. Alan has a surprise visitor at the night cafe (Ceefax) (s) (1895)8.30 *Oh Doctor Beeching! Past Lives*. Two new arrivals are greeted with mixed emotions (1788)9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (1638)9.30 *Out of the Blue*. New boy Lew shows his true colours when he pursues the wife of an Asian owner of a music firm. Eric discovers Bruce's Achilles' heel, while Mark finds the adoption procedure tougher than he thought. With John Duthie, Neil Dudgeon, David Mervin, Orfe Brady, Peter Wright and Lennis James (Ceefax) (s) (553947)10.25 *The X-Files: Roland*. Top scientists at an aeronautics research laboratory die in mysterious circumstances, with a mentally handicapped junior, the only other person around at the time of the incident. Is the junior connected to a continuing series of murders? Mulder tries to find out. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (518034)11.10 *Match of the Seventies*. Dennis Waterman introduces the series which mixes classic football action from the 1970s with gossip and pop music of the time. Tonight, the story of the 1977-78 season, with Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest winning the title and Liverpool conquering Europe (922837)NORTHERN IRELAND: 11.10 *Dublin Horse Show* (11.50 *Match of the Seventies* 12.30am Film: *No Room to Run* 2.35 Weather11.50 *Film: No Room to Run* (1978) On a visit to Sydney, a public relations executive is asked to deliver a batch of contracts to a client. As he hands over the briefcase he is jumped on by two men. Suddenly he finds himself on the run and wanted for murder. He turns to Terry McKenna (Paula Prentiss), the Sydney Opera House PR, for refuge. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (605725)1.30am *Weather* (6913787)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Cognitive Development (304270) 6.25 Powers of the President (4591562) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (6149386)

7.30 *The Family Name* (5892289) 7.35 *Johnson and Friends* (1414760) 7.45 *Cassie* (i) (6197947) 8.35 *It's Me... to You* (Ceefax) (s) (6552787) 9.05 *Midweek* (203941) 9.25 *Smart* (7658573) 9.50 *Puppydog* (Ceefax) (3263638) 10.00 *Playdays* (s) (7200218)10.25 *Hungarian Grand Prix* (s) (1615783)11.10 *Man in a Suitcase* (Ceefax) (9125812) 12.00 *Cheeky* (s) (65812)1.00pm *Model Millie* (4502473) 1.15 *A-Z of Food* (7027018) 1.25 *Menus and Music* (45081980)1.40 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (8152831)2.20 *Crashaw Peints on Holiday* (i) (8742508) 2.45 *A Life of Knowledge* (4575560) 3.00 *News* (1871386) 3.05 *Natural World* (i) (Ceefax) (s) (1942939) 3.25 *News* (2465857)4.00 *Cartoon* (s) (1615744) 4.40 *Fudge* (s) (3465305) 4.50 *It'll Never Work* (i) (s) (680) 5.00 *Newsround* (205021)5.10 *Sara* (Ceefax) (s) (4401251)5.35 *Cricket* (s) (18706)6.10 *The Champions* (Ceefax) (481473)7.00 *Seven Ages of Man: Molly Parton* (Ceefax) (3015)7.30 *Edinburgh Nights*. The first of the twice-weekly reports from the 50th Edinburgh Festival (s) (809)8.00 *The Day That Changed My Life: Funny Business* (s) (627473)

Six years ago, Geoff Schumann gave up everything to pursue his dream of becoming a stand-up comedian (2763)

8.30 *Wildlife Showcase*. The dangers faced on the Masai Mara by a family of warthogs (Ceefax) (s) (1270)9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (1638)9.30 *Out of the Blue*. New boy Lew shows his true colours when he pursues the wife of an Asian owner of a music firm. Eric discovers Bruce's Achilles' heel, while Mark finds the adoption procedure tougher than he thought. With John Duthie, Neil Dudgeon, David Mervin, Orfe Brady, Peter Wright and Lennis James (Ceefax) (s) (553947)10.25 *The X-Files: Roland*. Top scientists at an aeronautics research laboratory die in mysterious circumstances, with a mentally handicapped junior, the only other person around at the time of the incident. Is the junior connected to a continuing series of murders? Mulder tries to find out. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (518034)11.10 *Match of the Seventies*. Dennis Waterman introduces the series which mixes classic football action from the 1970s with gossip and pop music of the time. Tonight, the story of the 1977-78 season, with Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest winning the title and Liverpool conquering Europe (922837)NORTHERN IRELAND: 11.10 *Dublin Horse Show* (11.50 *Match of the Seventies* 12.30am Film: *No Room to Run* 2.35 Weather11.50 *Film: No Room to Run* (1978) On a visit to Sydney, a public relations executive is asked to deliver a batch of contracts to a client. As he hands over the briefcase he is jumped on by two men. Suddenly he finds himself on the run and wanted for murder. He turns to Terry McKenna (Paula Prentiss), the Sydney Opera House PR, for refuge. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (605725)1.30am *Weather* (6913787)

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CHOICE

The Day That Changed My Life: Funny Business BBC2, 8.00pm

Devoets of the black comedy show, *The McCoys*, may remember an excellent stand-up comedian called Geoff Schumann. Given his size, and he bills himself as "The Big Man of Comedy", it is hard to forget. In this film Schumann reveals that going into the entertainment business was a sudden career move and he kept secret from his family for a year. He keeps with the expectations of his middle-class father, who wanted him to follow a solid career in engineering. Schumann turned as a comedian. Then one day he took his class to see a comedy show and saw the light. Dad is still not reconciled. Drawing on the experiences of other black comedians, Schumann reflects intelligently on his craft and in particular the compromises he feels obliged to make when playing before white audiences.

Strictly Dancing: Cerco Channel 4, 8.30pm

Cerco is not exactly a dance craze, or it would be more widely known, but it is finding increasing favour among 18 to 35-year-olds who want to buck the recent trend and take the floor with a partner. James Cronin, who brought Cerco to Britain from France, says it is the dance equivalent to fast food. It is easy to learn and there are no formalities. Older viewers who suspect that they have seen something like Cerco before will be right. Essentially it is the jitterbug, which was imported to Europe by American GIs and developed into the jive. The first film in a series on "alternative" dances gives a helpful exposition of Cerco's steps and talks to some of its devotees. If this sample is typical, they are drawn mainly from the ranks of young professionals such as lawyers, sales executives, bankers and lecturers.

Modern Times: Years Apart BBC2, 9.00pm

Three couples who have found romance despite an apparently unbridgeable age gap come before the camera and let us in on their recipes for happiness. Not that love has always run smoothly. Steven married a woman older than his mother and mum has never been able to accept it. She and Steven have not seen each other for five years. In fact, tying the knot with Virginia (who is now 56 to his 29) not only alienated his family but many of his friends. It was very different for Kathryn, a 17-year-old schoolgirl, when she fell in love with Alan (44). Her parents actually bought her a double bed so that Alan could come to stay. The relationship of Mike, 30, and his wife, Venetia, 18, is professional as well as personal. She is a stripper and he is her manager.

Homicide: Life on the Street Channel 4, 10.00pm

The Baltimore-based detective series returns with a couple of new characters and promising to make less use of those dizzying jump cuts. Certainly the camerawork seems less intrusive this time, or perhaps we have got used to it. The mainstays of the show are its surface realism and the often barbed interplay between members of the regular team. On its own the detective work is unexceptional and tonight's episode about a warehouse fire might not be as gripping as the stories with the crime with a sharp sense of rank and hierarchy. With the elevation of Megan, Russet (Isabella Hoffman) above Giordello (Vaphet Koto), students of political correctness may note that the top three in the division are a black, a woman and another black.

Peter Waymark

SATURDAY AND CABLE

SATURDAY AND CABLE

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00pm *The Muppets Take Manhattan* (1990) (16378) 2.00pm *Golden Holiday* (1983) (45054) 4.00pm *April in Paris* (1985)5.00pm *Death in Venice* (1971) (22128) 6.45 *Jeopardy!* (763178) 7.30 *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* (1999) (20452)7.30 *One Day at a Time* (1978) (20274) 8.00pm *Death in Paradise* (1993) (21102)8.30pm *Modern Times: Years Apart* (s) (627473)9.00pm *Cartoon* (s) (1615783) 9.30pm *It's Me... to You* (Ceefax) (s) (6552787)10.00pm *Model Millie* (4502473) 10.30pm *It's Me... to You* (Ceefax) (s) (6552787)11.00pm *News* (1871386) 11.30pm *Seven Ages of Man: Molly Parton* (Ceefax) (3015)12.00am *Crashaw Peints on Holiday* (Ceefax) (9125812)1.00am *Cartoon* (s) (1615783) 1.30am *It's Me... to You* (Ceefax) (s) (6552787)2.00am *Model Millie* (4502473) 2.30am *It's Me... to You* (Ceefax) (s) (6552787)

BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 12 1996

IRISH SMILES 38

Riverdance leads
the economic
march on Britain

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Whitbread to seek links with regionals

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

WHITBREAD, the fast growing brewing and leisure group, is hoping to form a series of strategic alliances with regional brewers as a way of fighting back against the creation of the biggest brewer in Britain with the proposed £200 million merger between Bass and Carlsberg-Tetley.

A tie-up with Whitbread, which once dominated the industry, would also prove attractive for regional brewers. They are keen to find a partner to avoid being squeezed out by Scottish & Newcastle and Bass, which will control about 70 per cent of the beer market between them if the Carlsberg-Tetley deal is allowed to proceed.

That purchase, expected to be announced tomorrow, will

involve Bass buying out Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley, while Carlsberg of Denmark, the other joint-venture partner, will swap its stake for 20 per cent of Bass's combined brewing operations.

Whitbread, which owns brands such as Murphy's stout, Heineken, and Boddington's, is expected to be left trailing with only 15 per cent of the total market. Whitbread opposed Scottish & Newcastle's acquisition of Courage last year, but has been more muted in its criticism of the Carlsberg-Tetley deal.

The company believes that the latest round of consolidation presents it with several options to fight back.

Whitbread, of which Sir Michael Angus is chairman.

Such a strategy would revive memories of the "Whitbread umbrella", a vast array of shareholdings the company built up in regional brewers after the end of the Second World War. Whitbread now has only one stake, in Brakspear, the small regional brewer, and is unlikely to want revive such a close relationship.

Instead, Whitbread will concentrate on striking deals modelled on its agreement with Wadworth, of Devizes, to distribute its 6X beer. The 20-year licence allows Wadworth to concentrate on its own pub and regional brewing activities, while Whitbread plugs a hole in its portfolio.

Whitbread may also look at taking on contract brewing from the regionals as well offering its own brands, and especially its lagers, to help to broaden the small brewers' portfolios. But the company will be keen to emphasise to the City that it is more interested in adding new premium beers, and especially bitters, than capturing extra market share.

Whitbread has steadily reduced the importance of its brewing division over the past few years, concentrating on its retail and leisure divisions, which now constitute 85 per cent of its business.

for some time predicted that the life and pensions industry was an overcrowded sector and could shrink by up to 25 per cent through mergers and takeovers by the year 2000. The present 320,000-strong workforce is expected to bear the brunt of the sector's rationalisation.

Ms Fisher said: "It is very important that we see the report and its conclusions on where the job losses will fall and what has caused them. We believe that customers will lose out on products and in competition terms in the current round of merger mania."

The ABI last night said it had not yet been decided when or if the report would be published.

Bifu plea to see job cuts report

By ROBERT MILLER

A LEADING financial services union has called on the insurance industry to publish without delay a hard-hitting report which suggests the sector will shed up to 100,000 jobs in the next five years.

Bernadette Fisher, a negotiating officer for insurance at Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, said that after the merger between United Friendly and Refuge — at a cost of 1,800 posts on top of the 5,000 lost from the tie-up between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance — it was "a matter of extreme urgency" that the report compiled for the Association of British Insurers by Price Waterhouse, the accountant, be published immediately.

Insurance analysts have



Sir Michael Angus, of Whitbread, has put the quest for alliances at the top of the agenda

Managers expect rates to rise

By ROBERT MILLER

CITY fund managers responsible for looking after £931 billion now expect interest rates to rise over the next year, rather than fall further, according to the latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup monthly survey out today.

At least 81 per cent of the 74 institutions polled predict the Bank of England will raise the

base rate, compared with 64 per cent in July. Inflation forecasts were unchanged at 2.8 per cent for end-1996.

On the equity markets, the survey notes a sharp drop in the number of managers looking to raise their exposure to Pacific Rim shares, with the net balance down to 7 per cent from 21 per cent previously.

On a 12-month view of the UK market managers have become more optimistic, with a positive balance of 32 per cent of those polled, compared with 20 per cent last time.

The balance of managers planning to reduce their cash holdings is 11 per cent, compared with 7 per cent who wanted to raise cash in July.

they would have a drastic impact on the company's finances. National Grid shares have been a poor performer since the company arrived on the stock market in December, but the stiff pricing regime the market expects, requiring an initial price cut of between 20 and 30 per cent, is likely to send them further into reverse.

"We're braced for bad news," admitted one source close to the company.

Tax cut of 2p forecast

The "feel-good" factor has returned to the UK economy, and consumer demand will be further strengthened by a 2p tax cut in November's Budget, a new quarterly economic report forecasts.

If the proposals are rejected out of hand by British Gas, the matter goes automatically to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This might prove a political advantage to the Government, throwing the eventual resolution to the bitter conflict between company and regulator to beyond any general election.

But it would leave the stock market and British Gas' investors with months of uncertainty. The company's management has argued that such stringent regulation is effectively retrospective, aimed at clawing back profits already booked. The result of such a move would be thousands of lost jobs, a probable cut in dividends and question marks over the safety of the pipeline business because of lack of funds to invest, British Gas

report forecasts.

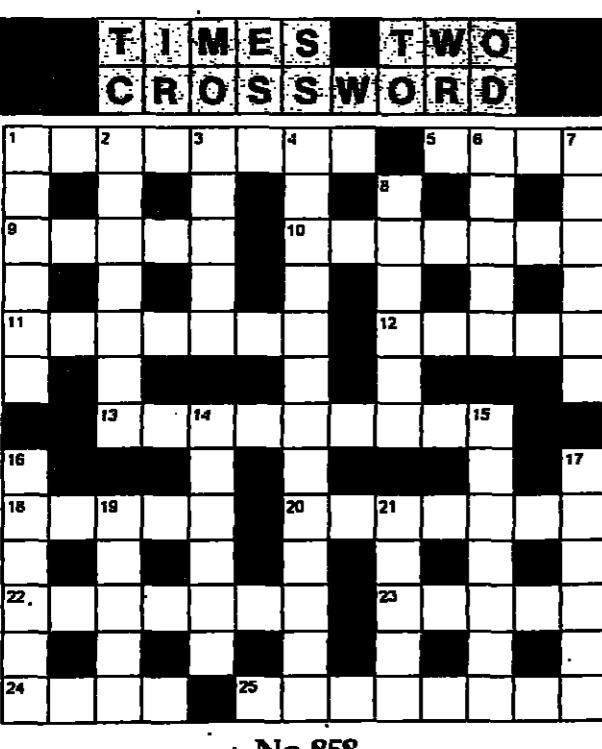
The report today by the Chartered Institute of Marketing says the property market is more buoyant, wage increases are expected to outstrip prices and manufacturing production is picking up, albeit slowly.

Kepit offer

The £500 million auction for the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) is intensifying amid speculation that an improved offer will be made by TR European Growth, the rival trust, this week. There are thought to be about a dozen other potential bidders.

Rate fears

Borrowers in Ireland are bracing themselves for a rise in interest rates this week after the Central Bank's refusal to stem the rise of wholesale rates over the past ten days.



ACROSS
1 Weakened, ineffective person (4-4)
5 Collar fastener (4)
9 Shrink in fear (5)
10 Of earthquakes (7)
11 Pay (or vicar) (7)
12 Polish currency (5)
13 Wisdom after event (9)
18 Compassion; courage (5)
20 Alone for (7)
22 Loud and discordant (7)
23 Pale grey (5)
24 Source: player protected in its draw (4)
25 Drag out (8)

DOWN
1 Swarming, plague insect (6)
2 Inspid and sentimental (7)
3 Song of lament (5)
4 Money-issuing machine (4,9)
6 Speed (mus.) (5)
7 Metrical foot, *rum-ti-ti* (6)
8 Pattern of sharp turns (6)
14 People of a state (6)
15 Windpipe (7)
16 Wonder-of-World light-house (6)
20 Milk-curdling substance (6)
21 (Angle) less than 90° (5)
21 Intertwine (eg hair) (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 857
ACROSS: 1 Copy 3 Succinct 8 Trod 9 Scornful 11 Gregarious 14 Ritual 15 Elated 17 High season 20 Her party 21 Ode 22 Thank you 23 Lens
DOWN: 1 Category 2 Property 4 Urchin 5 Circumflex 6 Naif 7 Tell 10 Safari park 12 Massacre 13 Keenness 16 Ghetto 18 Whet 19 Inca

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Yellow card for smaller clubs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MANY football clubs face extinction if the gap between rich and poor continues to accelerate, according to a report published today by Deloitte & Touche, the accountant.

Cash-strapped clubs are being particularly hard hit by spiralling wage bills, which increased by an average 16 per cent in 1994-95 and are in danger of running out of control.

Deloitte found, in its *Annual Review of Football Finance*, that most clubs are struggling to stay afloat in spite of the image of a game awash with cash.

Gerry Boon, chairman of the Deloitte & Touche football industry team, said: "The trickledown is decreasing each year. The losses at the Football League clubs are a cause for concern and it is

US ruling expected to knock BAT

SHARES in BAT Industries, Britain's main producer of cigarettes for the American market, are expected to fall sharply on the stock market this morning as analysts digest the implications of a defeat in a Florida court for the company's US subsidiary (Martin Waller writes).

A jury found on Friday in favour of Grady Carter, 66 and a smoker from 1947 to 1991, when he was diagnosed as suffering from lung cancer. He was suing BAT's Brown & Williamson, buyer in 1993 of American Tobacco which produces Lucky Strike, his favourite brand.

He claimed he contracted the disease from smoking and was misled by advertising that made him believe smoking was safe. BAT says it is confident of winning on appeal.

A BAT spokesman said last night: "He was well aware of what the risks of smoking are claimed to be, and he chose to smoke."

Graham Searjeant, page 38

Pay rise of 400 per cent angers investors

Restaurants chief under fire

ALI SALIH, chairman of Aberdeen Steak Houses Group, which represents the company's small shareholders, is angry that Mr Salih is enjoying a pay rise and was paid a bonus of £185,000 for increasing profits last year, while the company refuses to pay investors a dividend (Alasdair Murray writes).

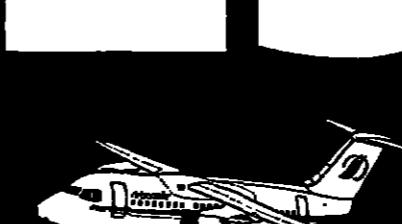
The restaurant company, which owns a chain of steakhouses in London, quadrupled profits to £2.2 million last year. It ruled out a dividend because of concern about the

impact of the BSE crisis on cashflow. Mr Salih said, however, in his most recent trading statement that he did not believe the BSE scare would cause permanent damage to the company's business.

The action group is opposing the pay rise at today's annual meeting and is seeking the appointment of a third non-executive director, drawn from the minority shareholders, who control a maximum of 7 per cent of the votes.

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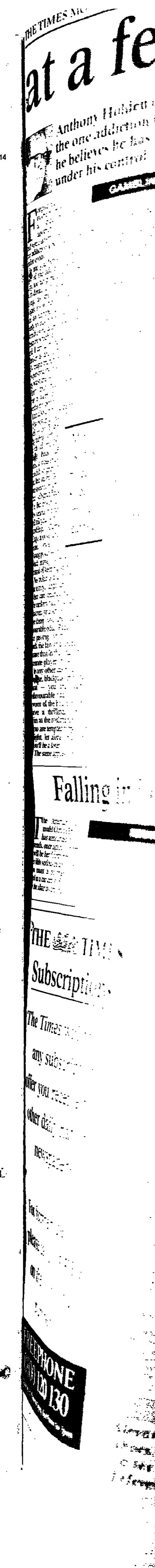
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at a few drinks and a flutter



Anthony Holden on the one addiction that he believes he has under his control

Forgive me a wry smile in the mirror as I light a cigarette, take another sip of wine, and settle down to write of the one addiction I believe I have under control.

As you behold a prototype of the addictive personality, too far gone even to dice with denial, if a thing's worth doing, as they say in Las Vegas, it's worth overdoing. I am an unrepentant smoker, ready to pay for my pleasure with the sordid and premature death in which it will no doubt end. I am a more repentant drinker, aware of the occasionally tragic transformations to my personality, not to mention my waistline — the two complaints that really register from a worried wife whose word is my bond.

I am also a bit of a gambler. I play poker at least twice a week — on Tuesday nights with a bunch of misfits dating back 25 years, at weekends in a club so grim it can feel more like self-punishment than self-gratification. But poker, as any serious player will tell you, is not gambling. Gambling is a loose, and losing, style of playing poker — in which money is merely the method of keeping score.

Yes, poker is a game played for money, large amounts of which can change hands on the random fall of a card. If, however, you know what you are doing, you are wagering favourable odds. Regardless of the passing whims of Lady Luck, the law of averages will ensure that in the long run the accurate player will win.

In any other casino game — roulette, blackjack, craps, baccarat — you are wagering unfavourable odds, loaded in favour of the house. You may have a thrilling, short-term win at the roulette table, but if you are tempted to try it every night, let alone for a living, you'll be a loser.

The same applies to horses, athletes, National Lottery balls or any other object beyond your control. If one freak, exhilarating win breeds a predictable taste for more, it will also point you towards equally predictable ruin.

None of which, of course, stops stubborn types like me attempting to defy the odds. Our creed is that of Paul Newman's "Fast Eddie" Felson in Scorsese's *The Color of Money*: "Money won is twice as sweet as money earned." But I learn my lessons early to the point where I live by the golden rule never to risk more than I can afford to lose.

For 20 years I have disciplined my gambling via a separate bank account. That way, you can punish yourself for a careless loss by paying the interest on your overdraft; enjoy a handsome win by taking a vacation at someone else's expense; and treat money with the contempt it deserves.

So, for all my other failings, I do not regard myself as a compulsive gambler. But I have known my share of those who are my high-wire Dostoevskian friend, who can sweat his way through three shirts in an hour playing roulette in an air-conditioned casino; who just cannot walk away while winning; and who is not really happy, not really *purged* until he's lost the lot. Or the sometime world seven-card stud champion, who has plummeted from the Fast Lane to Skid Row in a few short years. Or those poker players who cannot fold, who have to be in every hand for the remote thrill of winning, who cannot see that it is their ego running a show they should long since have consigned to their wits.

What they fail to understand is that victory goes not to the player who wins the most pots, but to the player who wins the most money. They are in it for the action. They are losers — and most of them, in my experience, are British. How has this upright, amalthean nation produced so many born losers in pursuit of something for nothing?

In those last three words, of course, lies the answer. Everyone's after the same thing: Something for nothing, and with the hindmost.

Some succeed. Others, like Nick Leeson, don't. For those of us operating at more modest levels, the true essential is self-knowledge. A gambler, who can swallow his ego, control his pride, acknowledge his limitations and adjust his risks accordingly, will generally survive. Those who deceive themselves that they know better, that today is their lucky day — and, if not, there's always tomorrow — they, poor souls, are the damned.

I started by starving myself. It seemed a clever method of losing weight and gaining attention. I had briefly savoured its power when, aged

Falling in love... again

ROMANCE

The American supermodel Christie Brinkley has announced that she intends, once again, to marry. It will be her fourth time, and her fifth serious relationship if you count a boyfriend who died in a car crash. She heads for the altar aware that in the

past marriage has made her deeply unhappy. Yet she is having another tilt. Why?

Addiction is the diagnosis of Dr Dennis O'Grady, a psychologist and author from

Dayton, Ohio, who specialises in marriage problems and depression. "You cannot get addicted to marriage per se," he says, "but you can get addicted to the feeling of being in love, to the romantic process of courtship. Some people just like to chase the love wagon."

Brinkley's first husband was Jean-François Allaux, a French illustrator. Then came the singer Billy Joel, who memorably labelled her the "uptown girl" in one of his hits. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the Joels were the dream couple of Manhattan, but then it all went wrong. Brinkley rebounded with a heady, deep affair with a French racing driver and champagne heir, Olivier Chandon de Briailles, who was to die in an horrific crash. Soon after his death and within weeks of her divorce from Joel being finalised, Brinkley married Rick Taubman, a property developer.

Ricky and I want to be together all the time," she said. "We knew it was meant to be." But within eight months, just seven weeks after the birth of their son, the couple split up. Zsa Zsa Gabor, Liz Taylor, Sir James Goldsmith — these are the names one quickly associates with multiple marriage. However, the phenomenon is not confined to the wealthy and glamorous. Only the other day an apparently ordinary patient walked into Dr O'Grady's surgery to announce that he had decided to marry for the twelfth time. The same old arguments were presented. The new fiancée was the woman of his dreams. Yes, he was sure. Never felt surer. It was love. Heck, this was the life he had been waiting for all these years.

Dr O'Grady believes that we enter marriage these days with our expectations unfairly

contexted, he says, and often it all ends in divorce.

Last month Brinkley was asked why marriage number three had failed. She replied that at the time she was proposed to at Dr Taubman, for whom the marriage was a first, she had clearly been going through some sort of "post-traumatic stress" after a helicopter accident.

Her latest fiancée is Peter Cook, a handsome architect whom she has known for about two months. The attraction was instant. "Oh yes," she has said. "I knew."

For how long this time?

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TOMORROW

Alexandra Shulman on buying shoes, Michael Ryan on being a sex addict, plus Dr Robert Lefever on the genetic evidence



You may have a thrilling, short-term win at the roulette table, but if you are tempted to try it every night, you'll be a loser. The same applies to horses, athletes or National Lottery balls*

the player who wins the most pots, but to the player who wins the most money. They are in it for the action. They are losers — and most of them, in my experience, are British.

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I thought I was fat

EATING



Food, gluttonous food

have been able to tell its exact calorific value.

Secondly, there were the interminable battles in the head between the rational and the irrational. The rational said: "You are not completely obese; you can eat like a normal person." The irrational — alas stronger — thought otherwise, assuming that when someone glanced at me on the bus, it was because I was so grotesquely fat that I was a fatground freak.

I suppose it was the irrational, too, that would interfere with my optician-perfected eyesight whenever I looked in the mirror. My reflection was this vast *Basil* Cook figure, stomach like a mound of cold porridge, thighs and hips a grotesque distortion of jodh-

purs and sandbags. The truth about eating disorders is harder to gauge than with other addictions. While a troubled childhood might have a lot to do with all of them, there are added factors when it comes to food obsessions: for example, a sick fashion industry which dictates that only a uniform, obscenely thinness qualifies someone to be human.

I don't believe there are cures for anorexia and bulimia. The reason I managed four years ago finally to kick it was luck more than anything — a combination of growing older and more confident, of becoming fed up with my calories-and-pounds infested mind, and stumbling across someone who thinks a really thin woman is about as sexy as a chair leg and gave every indication of sticking around.

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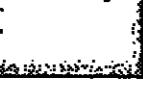
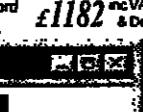
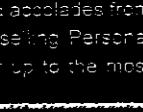
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Can you guess which Personal Computer was voted the Most Reliable PC?

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

The National Gallery of Scotland's stunning Velázquez exhibition is the star of the show at the Edinburgh Festival
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow


■ THEATRE

Robert Lepage reconsiders *Hamlet* for the technological age in his *Elsinore* at the Edinburgh Festival
OPEN: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday


■ JAZZ

Fresh from the release of his new album, *My Romance*, the US tenor saxman Scott Hamilton plays Pizza Express
GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ DANCE

Mark Morris, already a favourite with festival audiences, returns with a special programme to mark Edinburgh's 50th
OPEN: Monday
REVIEW: Thursday

The director the critics hate to love

James Woodall meets Peter Stein as he prepares to unleash his *Uncle Vanya* - in Italian - on Edinburgh

Peter Stein, the German theatre director, almost never gives interviews — not to the German press, at any rate, and to foreigners only sparingly. He has been living in Rome for the past five years, and hopes to die there. He has been in charge of the theatre at Salzburg for six years, where German critics continue to savage his work.

"Why this happens I cannot say," he says. "With *The Happy Ape* Stein's immensely successful production of O'Neill's play, performed at London's National Theatre in 1988, they said I should never be given money to do shows again."

The public, it seems, takes no notice. In Salzburg Stein has trebled theatregoing audiences. At the Edinburgh Festival, meanwhile, he has become a star fixture: *Julius Caesar* and Verdi's *Falstaff* in 1993; a Russian *Oresteia* in 1994; and now Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. The showcasing of Stein's brilliant and innovative productions in Scotland is due entirely to the festival director, Brian McMaster. McMaster persuaded Stein to direct operas at Welsh National Opera in the 1980s, and has brought Stein's theatre to Edinburgh for the good reason that he is one of the world's finest directors.

Uncle Vanya promises to be something special. Firstly, it is in Italian. Under the aegis of the Teatro di Roma, it was premiered in Moscow last Easter, and stars Stein's wife Maddalena Crippa as Yelena.



and one of Italy's most versatile actors, Roberto Herlitzka, as Vanya.

Herlitzka is highly versatile and studies hard, almost too hard," Stein says. "He's also full of little improvisations you nearly can't see. All Italian actors have a certain kind of physical behaviour on stage which is unique."

This went down well in Moscow, to Stein's surprise, not least because he has made *Vanya* very funny and the lovelorn Sonya (Elisabetta Pozzi) older than usual. Years of work on Chekhov have clearly paid off, even if in Stein's opinion *Uncle Vanya* is not his best play. "I'm very clear about the hierarchy of the quality of the plays. The best of them is *The Cherry Orchard*. The easiest to do is *Three Sisters*, because it's a very good story. And I'm not very fond of *The Seagull*."

Stein does nothing by halves. Work on *Vanya* in 1995 included the cast reading Chekhov's letters and novels and Stanislavsky on Chekhov and trips through the Russian

landscape as well as rehearsals in Moscow: typical Stein hard graft. For *As You Like It* at the Berlin's Schaubühne, he famously tramped around Warwickshire for a few weeks with his actors.

In *Vanya*, Stein begins to see something he is adamant is integral to the other two Chekhov plays: the way Russians deal with time. "Western Europeans try to organise, change and manipulate everything," he says. "The great philosophers say we should not do this, they say rather that we should try to get into contact with time passing, get in harmony with things — the whole cosmic situation. This we see in Chekhov, and it's a very Russian thing."

With time come changes in weather, temperature and season, all central to the design of this *Vanya*. Chekhov likes to go through different atmospheres — *of course* (sultriness), for example, in the first act. In the second act the storm comes, and everything seems refreshed, though we see that's not the case. Act III is in bright sunshine of late summer, Act IV is an autumn evening. All of this has an enormous influence on the characters."

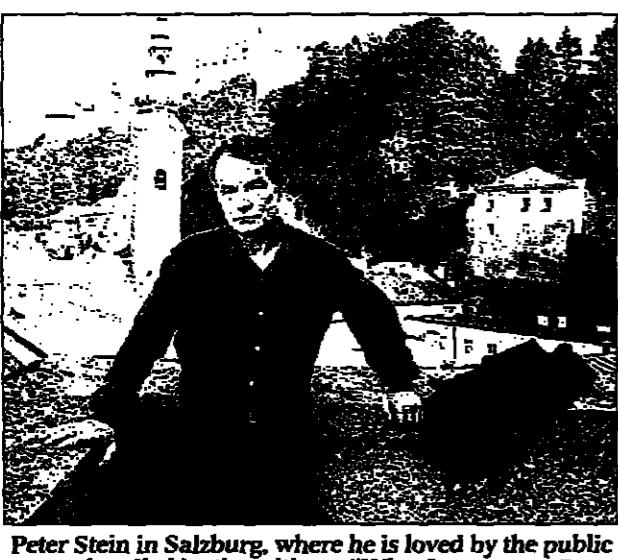
This almost scientific attention to detail is a constant in Stein's approach to mounting a play. The reading, travelling and cultural immersion that precede each one are symptomatic of the way he has conducted his career.

Born in Berlin in 1937, Stein followed a course in literature and fine arts for eight years, travelling around Europe. He gained no doctorate — the stamp of cultural gravitas in Germany — and knew he couldn't paint or write. When it came to theatre, he simply bought tickets for shows and watched actors closely. When he finally landed a job as assistant director in Munich in the mid-1960s, he was as steeped in music and painting as he was in drama.

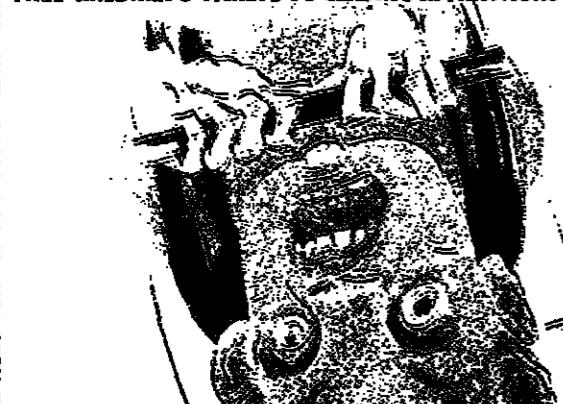
In 1970, he co-founded the Schaubühne (with Edith Clever and actor Bruno Ganz, among others) and proved that he could turn an undistinguished Berlin suburban theatre into Germany's most pioneering drama powerhouse, both as director and organiser.

Impressively ambitious, Stein feigns no modesty whatsoever. Yet about his own job, he is refreshingly frank: "As a director, you are a combiner: you can't speak, you can't sing, you can't paint, you can't make a set, but you can interfere with everything and organise. Theatre is compiled art, which is a lousy definition of directing."

• *Uncle Vanya* is at the King's Theatre (0131-225 5750) Aug 29-31



Peter Stein in Salzburg, where he is loved by the public and reviled by the critics — "Why, I cannot say"

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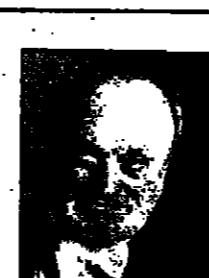
■ FILM

Jack Nicholson stars as a distraught father bent on avenging his daughter's death, in *The Crossing Guard*. OPENING: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Why cross-dressing could have killed Joan of Arc two books look at the infamous trial of the Maid of Orleans. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

Kurt Masur brings the acclaimed New York Philharmonic to the Edinburgh Festival for two nights. CONCERTS: Sat, Sun. REVIEW: Next week



■ POP

Supergrass, Pulp and Elastica join an impressive line-up of bands at the V90 Festival in Chelmsford. GIG: Saturday. REVIEW: Next week

Making a killing in the country

OPERA: Rodney Milnes enjoys the mixture of serious business and simple pleasure at the Glimmerglass festival in upstate New York

It is almost impossible to avoid the dread words "an American Glyndebourne" when writing about summer seasons of opera in sylvan American surroundings — Santa Fe, Saint Louis, Glimmerglass, perm any two from three. The 900-seat Alice Bush Theatre on Lake Otego — James Fenimore Cooper's "Glimmerglass" — in upstate New York could hardly enjoy a more sylvan setting, and picnics are both encouraged and provided, but the real comparison lies in the quality of the performances.

The three operas I saw there last week were superbly cast, meticulously prepared and excellently conducted. The music staff, as in Suisse, are given prominence in the programme book, and they certainly deserve it. The Young American Artists Programme attached to the season, a sort of equivalent to the Glyndebourne touring operation, breeds significant mutual benefit. There may be hedonism in the air, albeit discreet, but Glimmerglass is in the business of presenting solid, serious work.

The mezzo Phyllis Pancella suggested the layers of Lizzie's psyche with the simplest, most telling of means, and trilled for blow by blow with Sheri Greenawald's outsize stepmother in their Elektra/Chimenea-style confrontation. The Young Artist Margaret Lloyd created a deep impression as the sister, making every single word tell over silvery soprano tone. Kelli Anderson (father), Erika Caves (sister) and Victor Barret (the local Reverend) gave sterling support.

Cavalli's *Calisto* could scarcely have afforded greater contrast. It was performed in a new edition by Jane Glover, who also conducted: the Baroque band was authentically tiny, the pacing authentically fluid. This, you felt, was what audiences heard at

money: mean and bullying paterfamilias, sexually voracious stepmother, repressed daughters and their — in the circumstances — decidedly rash suitor. It is hard to tell if Lizzie is obsessed more with her dead mother, incestuously with her father, or marginally more healthily with her sister's man: either way, it comes as no surprise when she dons her late mother's wedding dress and mounts the stairs with a purposeful tread and an axe. The subsequent love scene with father before she does for him as well is exceedingly creepy.

Kenward Elmslie's libretto is larded with telling verbal leitmotifs; Besson's score is tonal, intensely dramatic and technically surefire; his word-setting is fluent and shapely, and the words are consistently audible. The piece lasts well under two hours, and every minute grips. Stewart Robertson's conducting, Rhoda Levine's production, and the decor by John Conklin (set) and Constance Hoffman (costumes) were simply faultless.

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Making it look — and sound — easy: Sondra Radvanovsky (Arminda) and William Burden (Belfiore) impress in Mozart's *La finta giardiniere*

Venice's Teatr S. Apollinare in 1651, but the piece spoke very directly to an audience of today. Simon Callow's production mercifully underplayed the outrageous same-sex dalliances as Jove wooed the nymph Calisto in the guise of the chaste Diana, and allowed darker undertones to emerge: Juno, having turned her rival into a bear, has a long aria about the misery of wives with philandering husbands and, as sung by Christine Goerke, it caused noticeable shufflings in the stalls.

Again, the quality of the musical preparation made Cavalli's roulettes and flourishes sound easy and natural: Lisa Saffer (Calisto), Bernard Deletré (the suave Jove), Christine Abraham (the fairly chaste Diana) and Drew Minter (Endymion, object of her interest) sang beautifully. The show was near-stolen by the veteran Elayne

Bonazzi as the crotchety nymph Linfea: she was hilarious without ever quite going over the top, and oddly touching. I'm not sure that Mark Lamos's production of *La finta giardiniere*, elegantly designed by Michael Yeargan, caught quite the right tone for this tricky piece — the baby Mozart who kept popping in aroused fiercely Herodian reactions in this stony breast — but under Robertson's baton it was a musical feast. Julianne Rambaldi (Sandrina) and William Burden (Belfiore) made their roles sound easy — they aren't, to put it mildly. Sondra Radvanovsky tore into the haughty Arminda with a will and Marguerite Krull's creamy, crisply defined mezzo was perfect for Ramiro. The overall vocal standard spoke clearly of weeks of painstaking preparation: Glimmerglass is fun.

JOHN ALLISON

Friday's concert gave listeners another chance to sample Schnittke's *Viola Concerto*, which in the 11 years since its premiere has become something of a contemporary classic. The soloist was again the work's dedicatee, Yuri Bashmet, who brought his trademark voluptuous tone to the proceedings: Pletnev gave a clear, coherent account of the score. He is a fine conductor, but not at the exalted level of his piano playing, and he can be emotionally cool. Haydn's *Military Symphony* lacked exciting dramatic contrasts, and in the Mozart Clarinet Concerto orchestral playing was overshadowed by Michael Collins's liquid tone and easy virtuosity.

JOHN ALLISON

Each programme featured a great Russian postwar symphony: Shostakovich's Tenth and Prokofiev's Seventh, and both works found Mikhail Pletnev at his most illuminating. His conducting underlined their ambiguity — both were written within a few years of Stalin's notorious decree aimed at their composers and are puzzling in very different ways. Prokofiev's last symphony (1951-52) is outwardly simple but deeply enigmatic, and in the concert-waltz of the second movement Pletnev and his players conjured up the swirling magnificence with a touch of irony.

Shostakovich's symphony, written probably at the same time but released only after Stalin's death in 1953, is a darker work, and Pletnev played up the uncertainty that pervades the music. At the

■ PROMS

Russian NO/
Pletnev
Albert Hall/Radio 3

opening he drew dark, sonorous playing from the strings and doom-laden sounds from the brass. The Stalinesque hardness of the first movement gave way to a scherzo of terrifying force, and a sinister, mocking Allegro — an account that made the high spirits of the finale seem all the more hollow.

A very different Russian realm was visited in the opening of Thursday's concert: three folk tale-inspired tone poems by Lyadov, the composer best remembered for not having completed Diaghilev's *Fairy Tales* commission. *Baba-Yaga*, in spite of one passage that appears to have been lifted from the *Ride of the Valkyries*, evokes the witch of Russian folklore in kaleidoscopic music; *Kikimora* is another study in grotesquerie, and both works were given disciplined performances full of vivid colour. By contrast, *The Enchanted Lake* paints a sensuous scene, and was played with subtle delicacy.

JOHN ALLISON

THE Russian National Orchestra's Proms debut last week has been a semi-highlight of the season so far, its two programmes confirming more the band's reputation for refined, precisely articulated playing than its place at the top of the Russian orchestral league. Even though I must admit to a hankering for the characterful, rough-edged tone more typical of Russian orchestras, these were impressive performances from players on a gruelling tour that has taken in Finland, the Far East, Atlanta, and will continue to Edinburgh this week.

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JOHN ALLISON

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Glyndebourne Festival opens with the London Philharmonic tonight. Tues 13, Sat 17, 5.30pm. *Enormous*. Tues 13, Fri 16, 8pm. *La Bohème*. Tues 20, Sat 24, 8pm. *Requiem*. For price and details, call 01273 813813.

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Matthew Parris



■ Incidents and accidents make the news, but we will never be prepared for them if we don't look beyond

Since what follows is not about abortion, why have I contrived to get the word into my first sentence? Because for columnists, there is a presumption that the selection of topics for discussion should, where possible, be driven by events. No journalist can ignore it, I regret that.

Two Mondays ago, few of us had heard of selective foetal abortion, and many had never heard of Queen Charlotte's Hospital. If a Times columnist had developed an essay to the pro and cons of aborting one out of two twins on the ground that a hypothetical pregnant woman felt she could cope only with one baby, his Editor would have politely wondered why on earth he had chosen to write such a piece. So would many of his readers. If the columnist had replied that the conjectured dilemma might have occurred already without being reported, could easily occur in the future, and sooner or later probably would, his Editor might politely have suggested that he wait until it did.

If, last Monday, following revelations about just such a case in the *Sunday Express*, a Times columnist had dreamt up — again, just for the sake of argument — a different case in which a mother expecting octuplets faced the choice whether to sacrifice six of them for the health of the remaining two, his Editor might have raised an eyebrow as the columnist protested that even though this had not happened, it might. But the Editor would have accepted that at least his columnist was in the right ball-park, if playing a fanciful game.

Today, after news of just such a case in the weekend's papers, those Fleet Street columnists who are not writing about the arrival of aliens from Mars are asking themselves whether there can now be any justification for writing about any subject but abortion, twins and octuplets.

It is therefore disingenuous of the "pro-choice" brigade (to which, with troubled heart, I belong) to accuse the "pro-life" brigade of "latching on to" or "exploiting" personal agonies to advance their own causes. For this is the only way one can interest the media in any argument these days. "Pro-lifers" are always trying to raise issues like these, but while the debate relates to hypotheticals, British journalism is simply not interested. So you can hardly blame the protagonists for seizing the only opportunities our news-led media offer. They know that within weeks the short season of interest in their argument will be over, and they will have to revert to leafleting delegates at party conferences and mail-

Are we now unable to engage in debate without particular cases to get us going?

lately right to run the story, as current even if they had known that it was weeks out of date. Why not take this editorial practice to its logical conclusion? Instead of waiting upon the vagaries of circumstance to provide the pegs on which to hang necessary arguments, the press could keep extensive archives of unused tales, some of them decades old. Depending on need, editorial whim or a summer news-famine, these tales could then be exhumed and paraded, posing as modern instances, to catch the public imagination in due season.

Or why not just make them up? Television soap operas already accept a responsibility to "set the agenda". Scriptwriters trigger public debate on an important issue by introducing a heart-wrenching fictional dilemma into their storylines. So how about an emergency debate (when MPs return) on the issues aired by the failed lesbian marriage of Zoe Tate and Emma Nightingale in *Emmerdale*? Is raven-haired fitness-instructor Linda, right to console Zoe in the way she has, given her complicity in the break-up? Has she broken any moral or social obligation by her recent pass at that other blonde?

And why don't we have a leading article on that, eh, Mr Editor of *The Times*?

Brit flop

BRITISH pop stars are being lined up to rescue President Clinton's 50th birthday party. On Friday, details of a guestlist for the party were made public, showing the lavish efforts the White House is making to gather together Hollywood's beautiful people in tribute to the President in this election year.

Attached was a B-list of celebrities to be used in desperation at the party to be staged at Radio City Music Hall in New York. According to the *New York Post*, these included our very own Elton John and Rod Stewart, as well as the Irish band the Chieftains. To compound the insult, the A-list is said to include Kenny Rogers, Cher, Carly Simon, Roberta Flack and the ready-voiced Phil Collins.

Hillary Clinton is in charge of the organisation of what was supposed to be the splashiest presidential birthday party since 1962, when Marilyn Monroe sang a smoky *Happy Birthday* to John F. Kennedy, who was rumoured to be her lover.

So far, however, the party planners have found celebrities hard to

come by. Among those said to be unavailable are the Paul McCartney (talk of an illness), the Warren Beatty (pregnancy), Tina Turner (in France) and Jack Nicklaus (on the golf course). Understandably enough, the White House memorandum on which the *New York Post* based its story was said to have been marked "This needs SERIOUS attention".

 Stewart: B-list

● Suggestions continue to roll in for putative Olympic sports at which Britain might stand a chance of a medal. John Rigby, a vet from Walton on the Naze, suggests the great British pastime of riddly-winks, with a golden tiddly (or wink) going to the winner. "But surely the sport most deserving of Olympic recognition," he adds, "is charades."

Man talk

FEMALE penetration of the government whip's office — by Jacqui Lait, the MP for Hastings and Rye — has not yet brought a change of habits among the otherwise all-male crew there. When she was appointed in last month's reshuffle, she became the first woman ever to serve in this robustly male bastion of Conservatism.

In trying to show his approval of Mrs Lait, Alastair Goodlad, the jokey chief whip, has been heard to struggle before resorting to traditionally the highest form of whips' praise: Lait, he nods, is most definitely "a good man".

● Note to Trevor Nunn, soon to take over at the National Theatre: there is a lean, hungry look about the spear-carriers currently working at the National. Now it is clear

why the backstage grub is lousy. To paraphrase Napoleon, a theatrical troupe plays on its stomach, so a petition is being kept at the stage door complaining about the quality of food. "Bland, tasteless and too expensive," is the tough verdict.

Irish joke

GALLOWS HUMOUR is firmly back in favour among the security forces in Northern Ireland. Amid the stand-off between nationalists and loyalist marchers in Londonderry last week, a poster went up in the RUC headquarters in East Belfast advertising "Drumcree Holidays '97". It promised special four to five-day breaks and new thrills including a ride on the Big Orange Dipper and "inflatable dolls — Paisley £7. Trimble £5". Paisley is

more expensive, explains the poster, because he is bigger and holds more hot air.

A "vintage car rally — all newly burned-out cars" is also advertised in the poster, alongside a plug for "The Sky at Night" — when the Portadown evening is lit up with spontaneous bonfires.

Pax humana

EVEN Jeremy Paxman, the putative cat-strangler of Shepherds Bush, is being ground down by the

more London Underground drivers' strikes. A keen cyclist, Paxman was sighted on the day of the last strike, gasping his way past the Victoria and Albert Museum, his face like that of a Tour de France cyclist straining for the top of Alpe d'Huez.

"I saw this figure approaching very slowly through Knightsbridge," says my witness. "He kept taking his feet off the pedals and didn't seem to be a man in control of his machine. He looked pained, fed-up and exhausted." Rather like one of his *Newsnight* victims?

Kidd stuff

TIRED of the endless talk about her waistline, Jodie Kidd has put her modelling career on ice and retreated to the countryside to mix dance records. Last year, Miss Kidd, a great-granddaughter of the newspaper baron Lord Beaverbrook, caused much chest-beating among fashion editors as her near-skeletal features swayed down the catwalks. "Have we brought models to this?" they wailed.

Bored with the gaunt taunts and the forkfuls of food being pushed her way, Miss Kidd retired to hideaways at her father's Caribbean estate and in the English countryside. She is learning all about

conservatives as Margaret Thatcher had in Britain. In the Republican primaries, some of this support went to Pat Buchanan, who is a skilful conservative populist, and some to Steve Forbes as the low-tax advocate. Jack Kemp will remobilise much of this support. In thinking about his appeal, one has to remember football as well as Buffalo. He is like a Conservative candidate in Britain who has both played for Newcastle United and won a 3-1 majority in a Newcastle seat. This matters far more to the public than his ability as a young ex-footballer to take on Professor Kaldor in a monetary debate and reach an honourable draw.

I suspect his immediate political impact will help Dole, but not enough, and will help Republican candidates for the House and Senate. The Republicans will win back the reputation that George Bush threw away as the reliable low-tax party. Jack Kemp gives the Republicans a dominant theme for the future. After President Reagan retired there was inevitably a move away from Reaganism, just as John Major has moved away from Thatcherism. That period in America is now over, and Reaganism is back in control — Bob Dole has found out the hard way that he did not have a chance without it.

The essence of Reaganism is smaller government, lower taxes, more jobs, local populism rather than Washington elitism, and patriotism, the feeling for America. The essence of Thatcherism is very similar. The experience of American politics is that this is a winning combination, and that consensus conservatism is not. It may well be too late to win back the presidency in 1996. The decision to put Jack Kemp on the ticket improves the Republicans' chances of holding their majority in Congress in 1996 and of winning the presidency in 2000.

Bob Dole's running-mate will revive Reagan Republicanism, giving the party back its tax-cutting appeal

Why Kemp could be just the ticket

New York State. As a Republican he repeatedly carried Buffalo, with his percentage of the vote going into the high seventies.

At the GMRE meetings we were discussing the world inflation of the 1970s. I was sympathetic to a restoration of the gold-standard system; President Nixon had only terminated American gold convertibility in 1971. That had opened the floodgates of the great inflation, or so it seemed to us. Jack Kemp was equally sympathetic to gold — indeed he once read a pro-gold article that I had written for *The Times* into the Congressional Record. What struck me at the time was his conviction that the Republicans could sell a new economic policy to the American people only if it was going to make them better off in terms of jobs, taxes and their own real incomes. He was both a monetarist and an expansionist.

Jack Kemp's personal experience is rooted in Buffalo, in his work as the congressman for a city suffering the decline. In the 1970s he was already arguing that solutions must be found for these old industrial areas subject to new competition. His objective was to reach a dynamic balance with a high rate of job creation, rather than a static one which accepted the status quo of big government. When last Saturday he attacked President Clinton's status quo policies, he was not just picking up a convenient argument, he was repeating what I heard

him say more than 20 years ago. As a radical supply-sider, he has always rejected status quo policies of the Left or Right.

During the Republican primaries, these supply-side, Reaganite, bat-tax policies were advocated by Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher, who did surprisingly well considering he had never run for any public office before. Kemp supported Forbes, even though Dole was winning. Indeed, when Forbes told him that he had \$20 million of his own

money to spend on the race, Kemp said to him, "Why don't you give me the \$20 million and let me run for president?" The reason Bob Dole has had to put Kemp on the ticket, after 20 years of disagreement on political and economic policy, is that he has been forced to accept low-tax policies. Kemp is the only Republican with a record which can authenticate this Dole conversion.

If you could run Reaganism against Clintonism head-to-head, I do not doubt that Reaganism would win. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as that. Bill Clinton is the incumbent

President in the later stages of an American boom. Jack Kemp, who is a true Reagan Republican, is only the vice-presidential candidate, while Bob Dole, who is by nature a Nixon Republican, is head of the ticket. Bill Clinton has a current lead of about 20 per cent in the polls, a very big lead for this stage of the campaign.

The Democrats will exploit the record of the past differences between Dole and Kemp. It is not inconceivable that Dole and Kemp will win the presidential race, but it is not very likely.

William Rees-Mogg

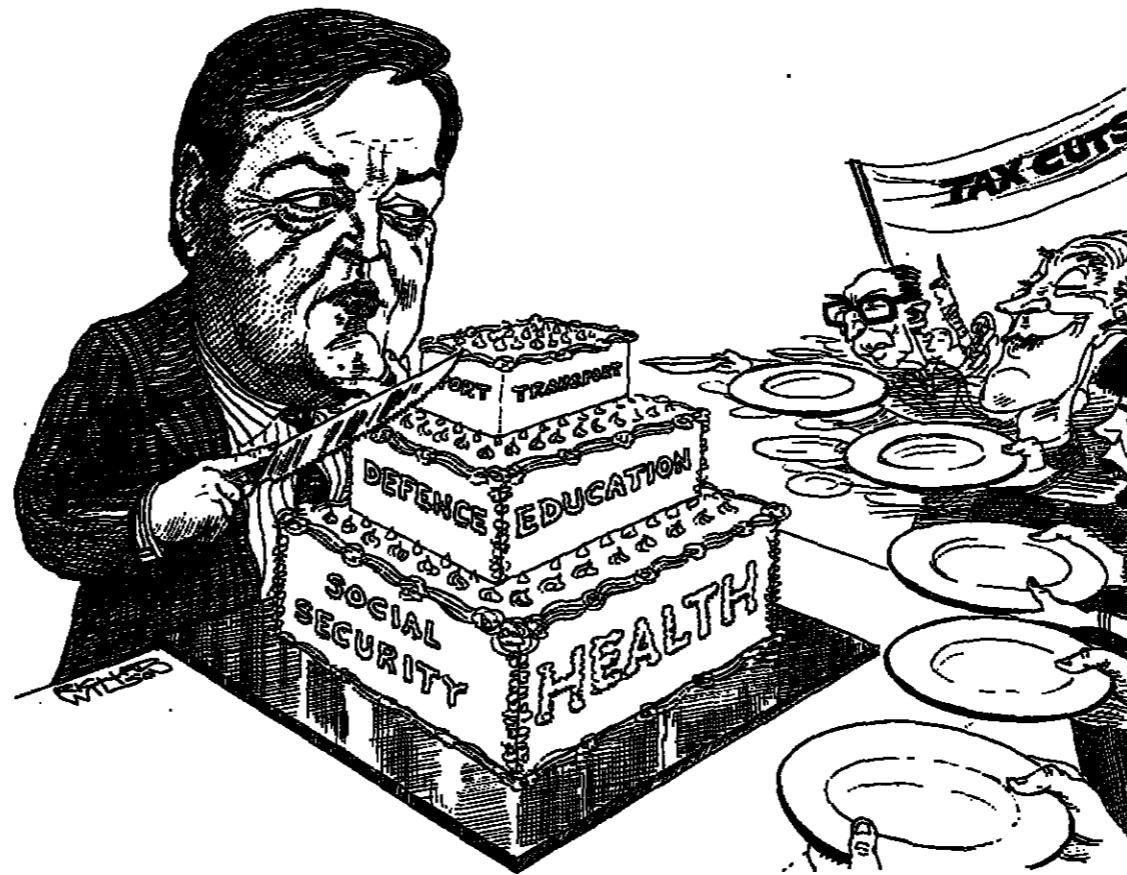
Whichever way you slice it

Tax-cutters should not forget voters' appetite for welfare, says Peter Riddell

WHENEVER a politician proposes sweeping tax reductions — as Bob Dole did last week with his \$548 billion cuts package — I become suspicious. It sounds too good to be true, and usually is. Either the economic assumptions are far too optimistic or the cuts in spending are vague — or both, as in the Dole plan. Just as politicians of the Left pretend that existing public services can forever be improved without raising the tax burden, so those of the Right often claim that taxes can be cut substantially without any impact on core public programmes. Both views are in the long term unsustainable.

For the 30 years after 1945, voters in most countries were willing to accept a rising tax burden to pay for expanding public services, whether roads, higher education or social benefits. That changed after the inflationary explosion of the mid-1970s when the Labour Government, like those overseas, sought to check the growth in spending. Well before the Thatcher revolution, Denis Healey recognised the resistance among working families and Labour supporters to paying more in taxes. Ironically, it was Tony Crosland, the leading ideologist of social democracy, who signalled the shift in spending trends, with his remark in 1975 to local councils that "the party is over".

The Tories have often been criticised for failing to cut back spending. But, apart from the relaxation of the early 1990s, they have achieved a lot. The share of spending in national income fell from a peak of more than 47 per cent in the mid 1970s, and just over 45 per cent in the recession of the early 1980s, to a low of 38 per cent in



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

the boom of the late 1980s, before rising to 43 per cent during the downturn of the early 1990s. The Thatcher Governments cut subsidies for nationalised industries and public housebuilding, and in the 1990s there have been efficiency gains from contracting-out and changes in the structure of the health service, plus cuts in the defence budget after the end of the Cold War. Successive attempts to trim social security have produced large cumulative savings.

Nonetheless, public spending has grown steadily in real terms, because the public overwhelmingly still wants schools and a health service that are free at the point of use, and extensive social benefits. Kenneth Clarke is one of the few politicians publicly to admit that if the present structure of the welfare state is maintained, as he wishes, it will be hard to reduce the

share of spending much below 40 per cent. By implication, the tax burden could fall only a little. Even that goal has required continuing squeezes on pay and other running costs, and cuts in capital investment, producing complaints about lower standards of public services and inadequate spending on infrastructure.

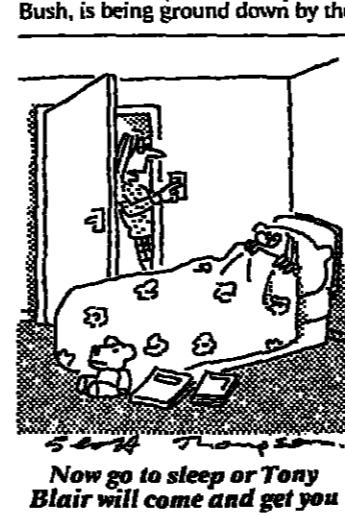
The only solution consistent with holding down taxes, let alone cutting them substantially, is to accept that the supply of services does not have to be limited to what the taxpayer will finance. As Lord Skidelsky has argued, and as the Social Market Foundation has shown in several studies, there is no reason why demand should be suppressed by the imposition of a public finance limit on supply. A shift in the balance of public versus private financing has occurred in pensions and is increasingly accepted in higher education. An expansion of private insurance and vouchers (implicit in Labour's

more, in a nod towards supply-siders, including Jack Kemp, his vice-presidential choice, Mr Dole assumes that more than a quarter of the cost of tax cuts will be recouped by higher tax revenues generated by faster growth. But the Reagan years showed that across-the-board tax cuts without comparable spending reductions merely push up the budget deficit and interest rates. Reducing high marginal tax rates and freeing markets should stimulate investment and job creation in the long term, but it is foolish to assume any short-term boost to tax revenues. The Federal Reserve's balanced monetary policies, rather than sweeping tax cuts, have been the key to the strength of the American economy.

The Tory Right has so far avoided these errors, but like Mr Dole it has been reluctant to address the unresolved dilemma left over from the Reagan and Thatcher years: voters do not want to pay higher taxes, but they remain attached to a wide-ranging welfare state. As the leaked Treasury planning paper suggested, a "Contract with Britain", aiming for a smaller State, "would probably meet even greater resistance" here than in America. There only limited parts of the *Contract with America* have been enacted, because of public opposition to rolling back government. But without radical reform of the financing of the main social programmes, big tax cuts are an illusion.



Kidd: model pupil



Now go to sleep or Tony Blair will come and get you

turntables and beats per minute from her boyfriend, Joel "D'able" Chinn, 23, who is not the sort to flinch from a plate of chips. Their first release, a trance-dance number, is expected by the end of this month.

P.H.S



TAX AND TRUST

Dole must use the convention to define himself

With the opening of the Republican National Convention in San Diego, a long wait finally ends for Bob Dole. Twenty years have passed since he was nominated as Vice President. Sixteen years have gone since he first sought the presidency. It has been an agonisingly slow process in another sense. Five months have elapsed since Mr Dole became the *de facto* candidate. He has lived on a shoestring budget since then and found it difficult to engage the attention of voters. That goes at least a part of the way to explaining why he enters this convention so far behind in the polls.

This week represents Mr Dole's great opportunity. For a man who has been a prominent figure in Washington for two decades he still has a fuzzy image with the American public. His legislative achievement as Leader of the Senate is a list of deals made and compromises brokered to pass the bills of others. His character is a mixture of abrasiveness and modesty, both of which he exhibits to excess. Mr Dole needs to use this convention to define himself and stress three aspects of leadership that can differentiate him from President Clinton: purpose, consistency and dignity.

For most of this year, Mr Dole has not offered a stirring message. Like George Bush before him, he has given the impression of wanting the White House more for being there than for doing something. This is neither inspiring nor sufficient. The most striking presidents of the postwar era — John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan — were closely associated with vivid ideals. Bill Clinton is an able salesman of himself but his early vision has been clouded by strategic defeats and tactical manoeuvres.

In the past seven days there has been one major advance by Mr Dole. A campaign based on character has found a centrepiece in a bold economic plan, albeit of the kind that he has frequently fought against in the past. This new commitment to cut taxes has been reinforced by the imaginative selection

of Jack Kemp as running-mate. Having discovered his mission, Mr Dole will have to repeat it ceaselessly and resist all temptation to stray from it.

His second front should be consistency. The Clinton Administration, both at home and in foreign affairs, has often appeared chaotic and crisis-driven, with little common thread other than an excessive respect for opinion pollsters. It is a telling truth that the political recovery of Mr Clinton has come only since the smashing defeat of his own Democratic Party in 1994. This gave the President a less active role in domestic matters, allowing him the freedom to engage in the symbolic functions of his post. He has done this effectively. Mr Dole must use his experience to claim that he can produce a more professional all-round performance.

The final dimension is the dignity of the presidential office itself. It was perhaps inevitable that with the Cold War closing, the Commander-in-Chief would play a less prominent political role. It may even be in the better interest of American democracy. That shift has, however, been exaggerated by the Clinton tenure's multiple strands of scandal. Americans should be made to ask what the price of four more years would be. Mr Dole is entitled to assert that he has the qualities needed to restore the necessary decorum to the most important executive position in the world.

There is thus a powerful argument for the Dole-Kemp ticket. There is a rather better case than has been presented to the American electorate so far. A successful convention can do much to move this contest towards terrain favourable for Republicans. Mr Dole's acceptance speech can lay out the differences between himself and the President in policy and personal terms. The twin themes of tax and trust are compelling. Mr Dole has a moving story to tell and a fine career to highlight. He has to do that throughout the convention this week. He will not have a better chance.

TO PLAY THE MAN

The Conservatives' campaign is daring but not discreditable

The latest Tory attack on Labour reveals more about the Government than it does about the Opposition. In choosing to aim at Tony Blair personally the Conservatives have directed their fire at what has been, so far, Labour's greatest asset — its leader. The decision to attack Mr Blair, months before the expected election date, shows no small daring on the part of Tory strategists.

Some Tories will feel that Central Office should have kept its powder dry. Others will regret that it used a blunderbuss. But if party strategists can succeed, however crudely, in crystallising voters' concerns about Mr Blair now, the Tories' task will be easier as polling day approaches.

Some at Westminster will affect to be offended by a strategy so negative and so personal, arguing that the public will react with distaste. But negative campaigning need be no more than critical scrutiny of the pretensions to govern of the opponent. The Conservatives were attacked for the crudity of "big tax bombshell" and "double whammy" advertisements during the last general election campaign; but the dinner-party deprecators, alone with their friends in the voting booth, voted Tory nonetheless.

The Tory attack is personal; but all parties have made their pitches to the public more presidential and their leaders fairer game. Labour has benefited greatly over the last two years from the enthusiasm engendered by Mr Blair's election. However, the last two months have seen a shift in public attitudes. Although Mr Blair's party is still well ahead in the polls his own ratings have slipped.

There is evidence, gathered for James Capel by Opinion Research Business, that

FEATHERED ENEMIES

The RSPB should reconsider its position on predators

As the guns blaze out their annual paean to the Glorious Twelfth today, a dispute has broken out on the fringes of the grouse moors that is every bit as fiery and cacophonous. A five-year experiment conducted on a Scottish moor by the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, has produced awkward findings for many conservationists. It found that a ban on the shooting of birds of prey allowed their numbers to increase that they not only decimated thriving colonies of game birds, but also led to catastrophic falls in other protected species.

The experiment at Langholm was the culmination of a movement among bird-lovers and conservationists to stop gamekeepers culling predators such as peregrine falcons, hen harriers and sparrow hawks. These beautiful birds, whose historic associations, elegance in flight and fierce magnificence have entranced generations of Britons, were in sharp decline. In recent years, however, a concerted attempt has been made to boost their numbers, protect their habitat and foster their breeding habits. The experiment, on 25,000 acres of moorland, was intended to show that, unmolested by man, birdlife will find a natural balance.

The results are a terrible disappointment for the predator-protectors. Rare heathland birds such as golden plover and curlew were hunted almost to extinction by their feathered enemies. Grouse numbers on what was once one of Scotland's finest

estates have fallen so steeply that they may never recover. The local economy is threatened. The Duke of Buccleuch — whose forbearance made the experiment possible — may now feel justified in calling for an immediate curb on the predators, and the RSPB will find powerful arguments opposing its long-held call for man to allow nature to take its course.

Several conclusions seem inevitable. The first is that in an island so crowded where natural conditions have for centuries been distorted by man, it is unrealistic now to adopt a hands-off approach to all species. Where predators are reintroduced, even the sea eagles of western Scotland, they may only be able to be brought back in limited numbers if they are not to upset the balance enjoyed by man.

The second conclusion is that anything that reduces game stock so drastically is bound to run into the opposition of landowners and field sportsmen. Thirdly, conservationists should recognise that birds of prey are probably more able to survive in today's environment than their prey. Peregrines have been found nesting in city centres, and hawks can forage for carrion on motorways. It is the weaker birds that deserve protection, including game birds such as the grey partridge whose numbers are falling despite the fine efforts of the Game Conservancy Trust. The RSPB should look at the Langholm findings and ask whether its absolutist stand is still tenable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Middle St Andrew's Wood,
Dulford, Cullompton, Devon.
August 6.

Wildlife, W1
From Mr Thomas Cave
Sir, The £6 game licence I purchased yesterday from the post office in Albermarle Street, W1, has a serial number three higher than that I bought from there almost exactly a year ago.

Surely more than two other denizens of the St James's/Piccadilly areas have shot game in the last 12 months?

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS CAVE,
Berry Bros and Rudd,
3 St James's Street, SW1.
August 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Deeper concerns in Tube dispute

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

Sir, Contrary to the opinion outlined in your leading article on the Underground dispute ("Down the Tube", August 7) the dispute is not about the right of management to manage, far less the organisation of holiday rotas.

The dispute arose because of the failure of management to deliver on an agreement it reached last year with the unions on reduced working time. Management's right to manage does not give them the right to tear up agreements negotiated in good faith.

It is ironic that you should point to the improvement in the performance of London Underground as a reason why "today's strikers should not prevail". Operating profits per member of staff rose from £7,455 in 1994/95 to £12,246 in 1995/96. Unit costs per train mile fell by 7 per cent over the same period while overall productivity rose by 8.6 per cent. These improvements were achieved by Underground workers, including the drivers you now seek to pillory.

Yet there is a price to pay for this.

Your leading article talks about management's freedom to initiate and innovate. These initiatives include asking drivers to ignore safety guidelines to meet timetable targets and forcing sick staff back to work under the pain of discipline.

There is now a real and growing problem with stress among Underground workers. This is acknowledged by the company. Last year, as part of a programme to tackle the problem, the unions called for a reduction in working time to be achieved over a period of years and we agreed a weekly reduction of one hour in 1996 to "benefit train staff".

The company reneged on the deal. Yet at the same time, the executive directors felt able to justify paying themselves massive bonuses because of the improvements made by staff. The unions do not object to these payments in principle, but simply ask for equality of treatment.

After a week spent at Acas where the only initiatives came from the unions — including an unprecedented offer to accept wage increases below the rate of inflation for three years to help pay for reduced working time — we are drawn to the conclusion that London Underground is happy to put passengers through another month of misery. Whether this was for political or other reasons remains unclear to me.

The Conservatives clearly hope to give shape to these emerging doubts by defining Mr Blair as arrogant and unprincipled. They aspire to transform him from electoral asset to albatross. Tory strategists believe that Mr Blair's determination to win could be presented as a will to power at any price, much in the way that Neil Kinnock's strengths of passion and platform eloquence became seen as damaging "windbagery".

It is an audacious strategy, and it has clear dangers. Ruthlessness is what many voters want. The perception that dissent from the Left will be crushed is precisely the guarantee many disaffected Tories require.

A willingness to marginalise extremists and tailor policy to Middle England's prejudices may only endear Mr Blair more to voters ill at ease with John Major's leadership style.

Ultimately, there is no easy way attractively to package the damaged goods that make up this Government. A willingness to tackle Mr Blair head-on at least demonstrates a renewed spirit. What will be required before that spirit can be translated into votes is a convincing analysis from the Conservatives of all the dangers that new Labour might pose and inspiring answers to the challenges a new millennium will bring.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES KNAPP,
General Secretary,
National Union of Rail,
Maritime and Transport Workers,
Unity House, Euston Road, NW1.
August 7.

Postal strike
From Mr Robin Rhoderick-Jones

Sir, Today I have no post. Tomorrow, no doubt, I shall have the usual small pile of personal letters, ominous brown bills and marketing trash in roughly equal quantities delivered — despite the fact that I live miles from anywhere — by the ever-cheerful Roger in his little red van at about 6.30am. Under normal circumstances this happens six days a week; some addresses have two deliveries a day.

This is an admirable service and one that, in my experience, is surpassed by no other postal authority in the world; but it is expensive. Do we really need a delivery every day; does anyone actually depend on a second delivery?

The postal strike, if it does nothing else, seems to me to point up the absurdity of a luxury that we could well do without.

Why not move to a system of no deliveries and minimal collection on Saturdays as well as Sundays? This would save a great deal of money and also remove at least some of the postal workers' grievances. Urgent communications between businesses could still be transacted by e-mail, fax or the telephone. The rest could surely wait.

Yours etc,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Middle St Andrew's Wood,
Dulford, Cullompton, Devon.
August 6.

Spread of BSE
From Mr David C. Taylor

Sir, The Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer is wrong to state that BSE cannot be transmitted through milk "because the calves of dairy cows do not drink their mothers' milk" (report, August 2). Calves do drink their mothers' milk, at least for the first day or so, when they receive the protein-rich (protein-rich) colostrum — first milk — which is important for their survival and never sold as milk to the public.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. TAYLOR,
International Zoo Veterinary Group,
Keighley Business Centre,
South Street,
Keighley, West Yorkshire.
August 2.

From Professor S. H. U. Bowie, FRS

Sir, Michael Dynes ("EU 'mad cow' bill could exceed £1 billion", July 31) rightly refers to the need to restore confidence in Europe's beef and lamb markets. Attempts to do so should be based on the best possible scientific evidence and on accurate reporting by

Serious issues and 'tabloid' TV

From Mrs Pauline Simpson

Sir, We were interested to read your reports (August 6 and 7) of Dr Sturtaford's unhappy experiences on Esther Rantzen's BBC programme on ME (Letters, August 10). A Scope director recently had a similar impression of being "thrown to the lions" when he was filmed for a future *Rantzen Report*, this one on the use of advocates for vulnerable people.

We were asked to take part because of the widely reported mistreatment by a care worker of children at one of our schools and of the ensuing inquiry. You do not, nor should you expect, to get an easy interview on a subject like that. However, we agreed to take part in the programme, partly because we feel we have a duty to explain what things go wrong, and partly because we feel that the issue of advocates and protection of vulnerable people is important.

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COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA
August 12: The Queen disembarked from *HMY Britannia* this morning at Stranraer and was received at Cairnryan Ferry Terminal by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wigton (Major Edward Orr Ewing), Mr George Kynoch MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland) and the Managing Director, P & O Ferries (Mr John Palmer).

Her Majesty drove to Stranraer Academy and was received by the Rector (Mr Michael Davies) and the Chairman of Governors (Mrs Rosemary Mann).

The Queen saw the redevelopment work in progress, met pupils and staff and opened the new Games Hall.

Her Majesty afterwards visited Agnew Park and was received by the Chairman of the Community Resources Committee, Dumfries and Galloway Council (Mrs Elizabeth Gordon) and met staff and residents.

The Queen later arrived at John Niven Campus, Dumfries and Galloway College, and was received by the Principal of the College (Mr James Neil) and the Head of John Niven Campus (Mrs Victoria Quinn).

Her Majesty subsequently honoured Mr Allan Baldwin (Convenor, Dumfries and Galloway Council) with a presentation at Luncheon.

The Queen this afternoon returned to the Royal Yacht.

Nature notes

MORE birds are moving south. Common and arctic terns are appearing over rivers and reservoirs: the arctic terns will keep going until they reach the Antarctic in a month or two. Migrating pied flycatchers can turn up in any stretch of woodland: they fly nimbly out from a branch to pick up passing insects. Late broods of goldfinches are leaving the nest: the young birds sit in a line waiting for their parents to bring food. They are sometimes called "grey-pates" because they have not yet acquired the red, black and white faces of the adults.

The pink flowers of spotted persicaria, or redshaws, are in the ditches: the leaves bear a dark mark, like a print left by a bleeding thumb. In waste places, small

bindweed flowers sometimes cover the ground like a sea of white trumpets. Conkers are swelling on the horse-chestnut, and drumstick-like seeds are forming on the limes. Silver Y moths have been very common this year: they have a curving Y-shaped mark on their front wings. In London, they fly out from window boxes when the flowers are watered in the morning. DJM

**BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

None to do evil, learn to do good. Purify, purify, make the opportunity, use it. The rights of the fathers and please the widow's cause. Psalm 1: 16 (REB)

BIRTHS

MOORE - On August 9th, to Kate (née Hinessey) and Malcolm, a daughter, Matilda.

SANDIS - On 1st August 1996, to Carol (née Boddy) and Martin, a daughter, Emma Charlotte.

SLATER - On 5th August, to Alison (née McLean) and Ian, a daughter, Alexandra Rose Kristin, a sister for Christopher Ian.

WHITEHEAD - On 9th August 1996, to Malcolm, New Hampshire, USA, to Cathy and Richard, a son, Timothy William. A brother for Hilary.

DEATHS

AMARATUNGA - Chanaka, dearly loved son of Swarna Amarathunga, died on 10th August 1996 aged 40 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Dr Amarathunga became a member of the Sri Lanka Party of Sri Lanka after graduating from University College Oxford and obtained his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Letters to Mrs S. Amarathunga, 58/1 Lancaster Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

BLEEKER - On August 7th 1996 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, died his husband of Margaretha and Father to Honor and Immaculately espoused baby. A memorial service will be held on 10th August. A Memorial Service will be held at St Mary the Virgin Church, Tel: 0303 222 1222 on October 12th at 11.30 am. No flowers please but donations to the Princess Margaret Hospital Trust (Magic Wand Appeal) c/o Mr D. Sanderson, Dept. of Development, Princess Margaret Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, 58161 KL.

CADMAN-BRANIFF - On 8th August 1996, in Bexley, Mary-Jane, mother of Tamzin and Daniel, died at St John's Church, Faversham, Kent. On Thursday August 15th, at 2pm, Tamzin, Daniel and their mother, Mary-Jane (Walkden) No. 10, Faversham, Kent. Services to be held at the British Heart Foundation, All Saints Church, Faversham, No. 10, Faversham, Kent. Tel: 01622 842222.

DEATHS

CRADOCK-HARTOPP - On August 7th 1996, at St John's Church, Faversham, Kent, aged 79. Much loved son of John and Mary, dear father of Melinda, Nicola and Joanne. Services at The Parish Church, Copse Hill, Wimborne, on Friday 15th August 1996. Burial by private family arrangement.

HARTOPP - See Cradock-Hartopp.

KENNEDY - David Charles, peacefully in hospital on August 10th 1996, aged 79. Much loved son of Nicolas and Pauline, grandfather and great grandfather. Services Wotton-under-Edge Parish Church, Gloucester on Thursday August 15th 1996 at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Great George and Gloucester Funeral Services, Chipping Norton, The Calpings, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucester.

Birthdays today

Mr Roger Abel, chairman, Conoco Exploration Production Europe, 52; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, 54; Mr Kenneth Collins, MEP, 57; Lord Colnbrook, 74; Vice-Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, 62; Air Marshal Sir Maurice Heath, 87; General Sir Patrick Head-Dobson, 75; Sir John Hollingshead, former Lord Mayor of London, 81; Dr Tommy Kemp, physician and rugby player, 81; Professor David King, Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 57; Sir Mark Knopfler, singer, songwriter and guitarist, 47; Mr Norris McWhirter, founder, *Guinness Book of Records*, 71; Mr Floris Majers, KBE, former joint chairman, Unilever NV, 63; Sir Robin Nicholson, metallurgist, 62; Lord Renton, 88; Mr Pete Sampras, tennis player, 25; Mr Jonathan Taylor, chairman, Booker, 61; Mr Peter West, sports commentator, 76; Professor Graham Zellick, Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, 48.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Bewick, engraver, Newcastle, 1753; King George IV, reigned 1820-30, London, 1762; Robert Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-43, Bristol, 1774; Sir Joseph Barnby, composer, York, 1858; Jacinto Benavente, dramatist and poet, Madrid, 1866; Cecil B. de Mille, film producer, Ashfield, Massachusetts, 1881; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Vienna, 1887; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant and controversialist, Durham, 1911.

DEATHS: Nahum Tate, Poet Laureate, 1692-1715, London, 1715; Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, statesman, companion of Nelson, 1804; Sir John Soane, architect, 1804; William Blake, poet and artist, London, 1827; George Stephenson, builder of The Rocket, Tipton, Derbyshire, 1848; Sir William Jackson Hooker, first director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1841-65, London, 1865; James Lowell, poet and diplomat, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1891; Adolf Erik Nordenstål, Arctic explorer, Dalby, Sweden, 1901; John Philip Holland, submarine pioneer, Newark, New Jersey, 1914; Arthur Griffith, Irish statesman, Dublin, 1922; Leo Janáček, composer, Ostrava, Czechoslovakia, 1928; Thomas Mann, novelist, Nobel laureate 1929, Zurich, 1955; Ian Fleming, James Bond, 1964; Professor Sir Ernst Chain, biochemist, Nobel laureate 1945, Ireland, 1978; Henry Fonda, actor, Los Angeles, 1982; Thomas Alva Edison made the first sound recording onto a foil-wrapped cylinder on the Edisonophone, 1887. The first Model T Ford was produced, 1908. Echo 1, the first US communications satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral, 1960.

Stage is cleared for Globe players

BY DALYA ALBERG
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Globe Theatre, the reconstructed Shakespearean theatre on the South Bank of the Thames, is nearing completion as actors rehearse and scholars and scenic artists put the finishing touches to the stage, which — as in the 16th century — will remain unchanged for every production.

Time is getting short as dress rehearsals for *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* begin next week, when any extra painting will have to be done by night.

Jenny Tiramani, supervising the design for the stage, is co-ordinating research by Jon Greenfield, of Pentagram Design, and Peter Davidson, from the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at Warwick University, among others.

The Globe opens officially next year but a production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* will run from August 21 to September 15 directed by Jack Shepherd, the actor and playwright. He spoke of how the Globe's unchanging stage will transform the art of theatre. There is no scenery and no lighting, as performances are by day: "It will always have the same background. We have to suggest different places." Recreating the Elizabethan way reflects a move away from "concept theatre" of recent years, he said. "This will be an exercise in the imagination, not stage design."

Dr Davidson said of the theatre: "We know the shape, because of Wenceslaus



Work goes on around Jenny Tiramani, who is supervising the design for the Globe's stage

behaviour. We know there were stars and the moon on the ceiling above the stage and that the sign of the theatre was Hercules bearing the celestial globe. We know that the stage area was brightly coloured. That is about it."

Hollar's engraving. We know that there were stars and the moon on the ceiling above the stage and that the sign of the theatre was Hercules bearing the celestial globe. We know that the stage area was brightly coloured. That is about it."

Dr Davidson's setting of Wenceslaus

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Chiswell and Miss C.A. Stroebel

The engagement is announced between Richard John, son of Dr and Mrs John Chiswell, of Brough Green, Kent, and Claire Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kurt Stroebel, of Hockley, Essex.

Mr W.M. Heneker and Miss S. Phillips

The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Heneker, of Reigate, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Albert Phillips of Penenden, Glamorgan.

Mr P.G.D. Robertson and Miss T.H. Coote

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Gillespie Robertson, of London, and Tabitha, daughter of Mr Richard Coote and Mrs Belinda Coote, also of London.

Mr A.D. Simpson-Orlebar and Miss J.C. Dophide

The engagement is announced between Aubrey, elder son of Sir Michael and Lady Simpson-Orlebar, of *Nechem Market*, Suffolk, and Julia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Dieter Dophide, of Vienna, Austria.

Mr M.J. Woodiff and Miss T. Vischow

The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Woodiff, of Leeds, Yorkshire, and Tanya, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Doro Vischow, of York, Yorkshire.

Service dinner

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, was principal guest at the annual dinner of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force at the Royal Barracks, Ripon.

Mr M.J. Woodiff and Miss T. Vischow

The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Woodiff, of Leeds, Yorkshire, and Tanya, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Doro Vischow, of York, Yorkshire.

Mr E.W. Howells and Miss P.M. Hopkins

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge, of Mr Edward Howells, younger son of the late Mr Christopher Howells and of Lady Graham, of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, to Miss Philippa Hopkins, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hopkins, of Cambridge. Canon B.N. Jones and the Rev F. Gelli officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Gabrielle Dryden, Thomas Dryden and Miss Helen Lawler. Dr David Verity was best man. A reception was held at Downing College and the honeymoon will be spent in Northern Spain.

Mr N.D. Coleman and Miss K. Sims-Eakins

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 10, at Westminster Register Office, of Mr Nevil Coleman and Miss Karmel Sims-Eakins.

The reception was held at the Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D. Pierces Jones and Miss H. Taylor

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 10, 1996, at St Giles' Church, Ickenham, between Mr David Pierces Jones and Miss Helen Taylor.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Michelle Wragge Morley. Mr Robert Heathcote was best man.

The reception was held at Pinewood House, Iver.

Marriages

Mr F.A. Mosier and Miss S.P. Wellesley

The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, London, of Mr Frank Mosier, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frank Mosier, of Saratoga, New York, to Miss Sarah Paige Wellesley, younger daughter of Earl and Countess Cowley, Castlewood, Isle of Man. Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by the Hon Henry Wellesley, the Hon Naotsuji Wellesley, Miss Olivia Galsworthy and Miss Joanna Wellesley. Mr Alexander Williams was best man.

A reception was held at the Oriental Club and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr K.P. Lloyd and Miss L.M.C. Kirwan-Taylor

A service of blessing was held on Saturday at St Mark's, Regent's Park, NW1, after the marriage at Marylebone Register Office of Mr Keith Lloyd, son of the late Mr Peter Lloyd and of Mrs Lloyd, of Torquay, Devon, to Miss Laura Kirwan-Taylor, daughter of Mr Peter Kirwan-Taylor, of Bridgehampton, New York, and of Viscountess Lynmhurst, of Westminster. The Rev T.P.N. Devonshire Jones officiated.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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CHARTERS

CHARTERS FLIGHTS & HOTELS

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OBITUARIES

Sir Nevill Mott, CH, FRS, winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Physics and Cavendish Professor of Physics, Cambridge University, 1954-71, died on August 8 aged 90. He was born on September 30, 1905.

One of the most distinguished theoretical physicists of this century, Nevill Mott won his Nobel Prize, which he shared with the Americans Philip Anderson and John van Beck, not for that "one startling discovery" for which the Nobel Prize is often associated in the public mind. His field of research was not one of the more outwardly glamorous ones, such as astronomy or particle physics. Yet his specialisation — solid state physics — was to find itself at the heart of the contemporary electronics revolution, and was to affect ordinary lives in a manner which the discovery of a new heavenly body, or even the detonation of a nuclear weapon, did not.

His work, and that of Anderson and van Beck, showed that certain cheap, glassy semiconductor materials had special electrical characteristics. He demonstrated that these could be used to improve the performance of circuits in computers, to increase enormously the memory of such systems, and to produce more efficient photovoltaic cells to convert solar energy into electricity. Such discoveries paved the way for a variety of now inexpensive tools for the individual, ranging from the wafer-thin, battery-less pocket calculator to the PC and the desktop publisher.

Yet when in the 1960s Mott started his work on amorphous materials like glass, which lack the orderly structure of crystalline substances such as metals and are therefore more difficult to understand, many of his contemporaries looked askance at his efforts. It was only when he produced a theory to show that such amorphous materials could function as semiconductors that the barriers of scepticism began breaking down.

In the event he was able to demonstrate that because glassy substances were easier to prepare, and did not need to be anything like as pure as the crystalline materials used in most electronic systems to that date, their use could usher in the age of the truly cheap electronic device. Although unspectacular when described in purely scientific terms, these discoveries quite simply ended the notion of the computer as the preserve of aerospace and defence agencies, big industries and scientific research institutes, and added it to the list of household utensils.

Surprisingly for one who had been a shy and retiring boy, Mott was, in addition to this immense burden of research work, to become in his day one of the most influential figures at Cambridge University through his 17-year tenureship

of the Cavendish professorship and his Mastership of Gonville and Caius College from 1959 to 1966. As — in addition to these two influential posts — an active member of the university's General Board and of the Council of the Senate, he played a leading part in formulating university policy, especially where science was concerned. Indeed, in matters of science education — particularly proposed changes in school syllabuses which cropped up from time to time — his voice, whether as a university spokesman or as chairman of the Royal Society committee on education which he chaired in the 1960s, was listened to far outside Cambridge.

Administrative activities had not, at first, come easily to him. His first love, and the centre of his being, was his research (and he had all the endearing hallmarks of the "absent-minded professor"). But through his own action in seizing opportunities and his self-discipline in adapting himself to their challenge, he gained the necessary assurance as time progressed.

Nevill Francis Mott was the son of C. F. Mott, a former Director of Education for Liverpool, and his talented wife Lilian. His mother and father had been research students together under J. J. Thomson at the Cavendish Laboratory, where their photographs may be seen displayed in the "Research Group" for 1902, when his mother was still "Miss Reynolds". Nevill was at school at Clifton College and went from there to St John's College, Cambridge, with an open scholarship.

He was classed Wrangler with Distinction in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos in 1926, and after three years' research in applied mathematics he was appointed to a lectureship at Manchester University in 1929. He returned to Cambridge as a Fellow and lecturer of Caius College in 1930 and in 1933 went to Bristol as Melville Wills Professor in Theoretical Physics. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1936 at the young age of 31. In 1948 he became Henry Overton Wills Professor of Physics and Director of the Henry Herbert Wills Physical Laboratory at Bristol.

In 1954 he returned to Cambridge to the Cavendish Chair of Experimental Physics, and in 1959 he was elected in addition to the Mastership of Caius College. In the meantime his mathematical genius had been turned to good account in the early years of the nuclear programme at the UK Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell. By this stage his absent-mindedness had become legendary. It was said that when colleagues returned to Didcot station from Harwell after a meeting there in 1954, he mistakenly took the train to Bristol, forgetting that he had just taken up the chair at Cambridge.

Mott's research career started at a time when the ideas of wave-mechanics were being put on a firm basis, and he quickly established a reputation by his application of the new ideas to collisions of atomic particles. In an important paper, he showed how the Rutherford law of alpha particle scattering could be deduced from wave-mechanical principles, and he extended it to include the effects of symmetry in scattering phenomena.

But when he went to Bristol as a professor at the age of 27 he abandoned the subject of collisions for that of metals and alloys, and within a few years he had an international reputation in that field also. Later he turned to consider semiconductors and insulators, and to problems



concerned with the formation of a latent image in a photographic emulsion. During Mott's 21 years at Bristol his group occupied a position of particular eminence in theoretical physics.

During the war he first worked on problems concerned with the propagation of radio waves. Later, as Superintendent of Theoretical Research in Armaments, he made outstanding contributions to the theory of the explosive fragmentation of shell and bomb cases.

Although Mott's researches were of a purely mathematical nature, he showed particular aptitude for discussing them in physical terms, and in relation to problems

experiments. It was largely this facility which made him so successful as research director of the H. H. Wills laboratory at Bristol, where he showed unexpected ability for directing the experimental work in detail. His ability to explain mathematics in physical terms was responsible for the immediate success of his book *An Outline of Wave Mechanics* (1930) and its successor *Elements of Wave Mechanics* (1952), each of which, in its own time, had a profound influence on the teaching of wave mechanics in English universities.

Other books, such as *The Theory of Atomic Collisions* (with H. S. W. Massey, 1933) and *The Theory of the Properties of Metals and Alloys* (with H. Jones, 1936), were of equal importance for more advanced students. *Metal-Insulator Transitions* (1970, 2nd ed. 1990) crowned a long period of concern with a central problem in the physics of solids which is universally known as the Mott transition.

By the time Mott was appointed Cavendish Professor at Cambridge his interests had widened to include administration, and from the first he showed himself courageous in making far-reaching decisions and executing them with speed and ruthlessness. There was naturally at that time in the Cavendish Laboratory, where Rutherford had worked, a strong tradition of nuclear physics. Mott found that a large and costly "linear accelerator" was under construction. He saw at once the critical problems for the university which a large machine of this kind would present: although he was not due to go into residence at Cambridge until a year had elapsed, he lost little time in closing the project down.

After his retirement from the Cavendish

priority of the Deer report on the long-term needs of scientific departments — absorbed his time and effort increasingly from the mid-1960s, at a difficult period when retrenchment rather than expansion was the national policy.

Mott's Mastership of Caius was notable for his insistence on the importance of bringing the college into accord with the changing external conditions, especially through its admissions policy, and also of taking its full share of any university affairs. He supported the college's liberal use of its funds for purposes such as the election of considerable numbers of able young research fellows and, in particular, for its share in the founding of the new Darwin College. But he resigned the Mastership in 1966, feeling that continued conflict of opinion about many issues with a majority of the fellows made the position a frustrating one. In particular, his forward-looking proposal for a professionally trained bursar had been turned down by them.

After his retirement from the Cavendish chair, Mott returned to research with a vigour that would have been impressive in a much younger man. He worked not only with the research groups in the Cavendish Laboratory but with workers in industrial research laboratories in the UK and in France, and, as a senior research fellow, 1971-73, with the solid state physicists at Imperial College, London.

The work which was to win him the Nobel Prize in 1977 had in fact been begun, in conjunction with Anderson, at Cambridge in the 1960s. The two men's research sparked off a number of similar experiments at Dundee, in Marburg, Germany, where the work was financed by Volkswagen; and in a number of places in the US, notably at Bell Telephone. His Nobel Prize, awarded at the relatively late age (for a mathematician) of 72, was a summation of these years of research which had to be quarried out of the time he had been compelled to devote to administration.

Outside Cambridge Mott held important offices in physics, which ranged from his presidency of the International Union of Physics through his membership of the Crowther committee on education to his work as advisor on the planning of higher education in African countries, in Israel and in Greece, to the part he played in the "Pugwash" conference on the application of science for peaceful ends.

He was knighted in 1962, and he received well over a score of honorary degrees from institutions in Britain, Europe, Israel and America. His appointment as a Companion of Honour last year was a somewhat belated, but richly merited, acknowledgement of his great achievements.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, and by one of their two daughters.

RAFAEL KUBELIK

Rafael Kubelik, Czech-born, Swiss-nationalised conductor and composer, died yesterday in Lucerne aged 82. He was born on June 29, 1914.

NOT a man who was prepared to compromise, especially on matters such as rehearsal time, Rafael Kubelik was a musician from whom controversy was never very far in his earlier days, whether during his spell with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 1950-53, or at Covent Garden where he was artistic director, 1955-58. He was not a man to whom the give and take which generally has to be part of operatic life came easily. Nor, to his credit, was he prepared to conduct in countries whose autocratic regimes he found repugnant. He had, after all, had to leave Czechoslovakia after the Communist takeover in 1948.

But his later experiences were happier ones. From 1961 he had a fruitful association with Munich as chief conductor of Bayerischer Rundfunk and he stayed there until ill-health — acute arthritis — forced him to give up conducting in 1979. He broke off a performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony in Munich because he could no longer stand the pain and he seldom appeared before an orchestra thereafter.

His 75th birthday in 1989 was, though, celebrated with much acclaim in Bavaria, including performances of

several of his own works. His period in Munich had been notable for the recording of all Mahler's symphonies and for recordings of works by Janácek and Schoenberg.

Rafael Jeronym Kubelik was born on his father's estate near Kolin to the east of Prague. His family was musical, his father being the legendary Czech violinist Jan Kubelik, whom the young Rafael was later to accompany on the piano. His mother was a Hungarian countess of broad culture.

Kubelik studied at the Prague Conservatoire and demonstrated just how versatile he was by conducting, playing the violin and offering one of his own compositions for the final examination. In 1934 he conducted the Czech Philharmonic for the first time, five months before his 20th birthday. Appointed conductor of the orchestra in 1936, he took it on tours throughout Czechoslovakia and abroad, in particular to Britain.

Before the war he also conducted at the Brno Opera, which was famous for its championship of Janácek, and from 1942 to 1948 he was music director of the Czech Philharmonic. After the war he helped to found the Prague Spring Festival, but he left the country after the Communist takeover in 1948.

Some of his first engagements in the West were provided by the BBC, for whom Kubelik conducted a number of operas. He also conducted

selected performers were not of a standard to have made it in an international house. The experiment might have had its attractions elsewhere, but Covent Garden was hardly the place for it.

There were public rows, one with Tito Gobbi whom Kubelik fired for turning up late for rehearsals. There was another, in print, with Beecham, who thoroughly disapproved of the Kubelik approach. The compensations were Kubelik's own performances — *Otelio*, *The Trojans* and *Janůfa*. But these were not great years at Covent Garden and when Kubelik left in 1958 his policy of English-language performance was revoked.

Thereafter he conducted a number of world orchestras, among them the Vienna Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic, maintaining his momentum on the international scene. Soon he was dividing much of his life between Munich and Lucerne. Made chief conductor of Bayerischer Rundfunk in 1961, he led the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra on many tours abroad until his retirement in 1979. It was the natural place to express his lifelong feeling for Mahler and, to a lesser extent, Bruckner.

Later he had a home in Lucerne — he had taken out Swiss citizenship in 1967 — and was artistic adviser to the festival there, which in 1988 gave the premiere of one of his last compositions, *Invocation*.

In London he was heard regularly with the LSO. In 1973 there was a brief flirtation with the Met in New York before James Levine took over. But by then Kubelik had probably realised that the international opera circuit was not for him.

He made a number of records, mainly with the Bavarian Radin, which included two Weber operas (*Oberon* and *Frohschütz*) as well as his beloved Mahler. He had no outward resentment of the disease which brought an end to his career at an age when many conductors feel there is a good decade to go and told one interviewer that "pain can act as a positive spiritual force".

To prove it he went on composing. His works include, notably, the operas *Veronika*, first performed in Brno in 1947, and *Cornelia Farolli* (based on the life of Titian) and premiered in Augsburg in 1972. There were also two symphonies, one orchestral, the other choral; two concertos, one for violin, one for cello; and three requiems.

Finally, in 1990, after 42 years in exile he returned to Prague and conducted the Czech Philharmonic in a memorable concert on the city's Old Town Square.

His first wife, the violinist Lala Bertlova, by whom he had one son, died in 1961. He married the soprano Elsie Morison two years later: she survives him.



A TALE

Every man experienced in love must have felt the pleasure of being deceived, and perhaps he submits with most cheerfulness to the arts of the other sex, acts with more wisdom than the cunning lover, who for ever investigating facts and circumstances. This was the conduct of a certain Turkish merchant, of whom we are going to give an anecdote.

The Rev Angus Parker, Associate Minister, Attenborough (Nottingham), to his Vicar, St. Peter and St. Paul, Penyrys, Plymouth (Exeter).

The Rev Eric Headwood, Vicar, St. Mark, Brixton Hill, to his Vicar, St. Peter and St. Paul, Penyrys, Plymouth (Exeter).

The Rev Trevor Jones, Vicar, St. Mark, Brixton Hill, to his Vicar, St. Peter and St. Paul, Penyrys, Plymouth (Exeter).

The Rev Anthony Shaw, Head Coordinator of Key Stage One in London School and on the staff of St Mark's Church, Regents' Park (London), to be Priest-in-charge, Walthamstow, All Saints Church and St Bartholomew with Holme, St. Giles, and Diocesan Inspector of Church Schools (Southwark).

ON THIS DAY

August 12, 1786

The Times, in its second year, and still the Universal Register, was dependent on more than hard news to fill its columns.

The lady answered — "Mahomet must be the father, for one day as I lay reclined in the garden upon a bench, a cloud suddenly burst over me — turning my eyes to Heaven, I perceived there was a fall of snow — ejaculating a prayer at the instant, a flock of snow fell into my mouth, and within ten months I was delivered of this fair babe".

This consequence was that the merchant's wife became a mother, without making a father of her betrothed spouse. The merchant returning suddenly, surprised his wife in the very act of nursing her spurious bantling — and assuming a complaisant air, inquired with great humility to what happy accident he owed the increase in his family.

must take care of the offspring of the father of the faithful". The merchant was a perfect master of dissimulation; he also loved peace and never upbraided his wife, or shewed the least want of affection to the son of the Holy Prophet.

The son grew up, and when 15 the merchant proposed to carry him on a journey — He carried him to Alexandria and there sold him to a merchant who traded to the East Indies. On his return — his wife was distracted at the loss of her son. "Calm your passions", said he, "the Prophet is only to blame — the boy and I on a sultry day travelled upon a lofty mountain, when on a sudden your son began to dissolve, and melted before my eyes — I would have attempted to assist him; but recollecting you had told me he was made of snow, I considered it would have been labour in vain".

A great part of Cheapside, a large proportion of Wapping, a good slice of Rotherhithe, and half Whitechapel have emptied themselves in Margate.

Church news

Latest appointments include: The Rev Alison Beever, Assistant Curate, Christ Church and St Marks, Watford (St Albans), to be Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena, Ticehurst (Oxford).

The Rev David Burrell, Priest-in-charge, Haughley with Wetherden and Stowmarket, to be Priest-in-charge, Culford, West Stow and Wrentham, Fletching and Lackford and The Farningham and Timworth (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Before the war he also conducted

to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev Janet Collins, Team Vicar, Wimsey Team Ministry, to be Staff Tutor, St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course (Oxford).

The Rev Louise Cooper, Curate, Dovecot (Liverpool), to be Assistant Chaplain in HM Young Offenders' Centre, Glen Parva (Leicester).

The Rev Jonathan Herbert, Team Vicar, Blakenhall Health Team Ministry (Lichfield), to be Community Minister, St. Paul's, Finsbury (London).

The Rev Antonio Cretnay, formerly Honorary Curate, Bedminster Team Ministry, to be Curate, Bedminster Team Ministry (Bristol).

The Very Rev. Dr. Hugh Dickinson, Dean of Selby (Salisbury), recently retired, now Dean Emeritus.

The Rev Richard Goodhand, Priest-in-charge, Clifton-with-Hayton (Southwell); now Assistant Chaplain (part-time) at HM Prison, Ranby.

The Rev Stephen Griffiths, Assistant Curate, Glasgow, and Diocesan Mission Officer (Chelmsford).

RICHARD AUSTIN

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Geoff Schumann, the comedian, reflects intelligently on his craft in *The Day that Changed my Life* (BBC2, 8pm). Review: Lynne Truss had a heart-rending, mind-blowing weekend.... Page 39

OPINION

Tax and trust

The twin themes of tax and trust are compelling. Mr Dole has a moving story to tell and a fine career to highlight. He has to do that throughout the convention this week. He will not have another chance.... Page 27

To play the man

Ultimately, there is no easy way to package attractively the damaged goods that make up this Government. A willingness to tackle Mr Blair head-on at least demonstrates a renewed spirit.... Page 17

Feathered enemies

A ban on shooting birds of prey allowed their numbers to increase that they not only decimated colonies of game birds, but also brought about catastrophic falls in other protected species.... Page 17

DOCUMENT

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The essence of Reaganism is smaller government, lower taxes, more jobs, local populism, and patriotism. The experience is that this is a winning combination.... Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Mr Dole assumes that more than a quarter of the cost of tax cuts will be recovered by higher tax revenues generated by faster growth. But the Reagan years showed that across-the-board tax cuts without comparable spending reductions merely push up the budget deficit and interest rates.... Page 16

OPINION

Professor Sir Nevill Mott, winner of 1977 Nobel Prize for Physics; Rafael Kubelik, Czech-born conductor and composer.... Page 19

LETTERS

Ranzen Report: Tube strikes; merits of metric; Civil Service standards; noisy neighbours.... Page 17

THE PAPERS

For the French, this is turning into a summer to forget. France has been thrown into a self-questioning and anxious mood

— *La Repubblica*

CINEMA

Changes to chart below from noon low D will push eastwards and deepen. Low E will

northeast and low B will be slow-moving with little change in pressure

BUCHANAN

Dole campaign

The Repubblica

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